



# BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE  
CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

VOL. 14 NO. 11

SEPTEMBER 18, 1989

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Early signings  
help Bears

Crowd-noise rule  
needn't worry Bears

Big intra-division  
battle vs. Vikes  
Sunday in Chicago

**The coach  
on the field:  
Mike Singletary**







A newspaper devoted exclusively to the  
Chicago Bears and the NFL

Vol. 14, No. 11 September 18, 1989

Cover photo by  
Steve Woltmann

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# Sunday's win is important for a young team like Bears

The biggest thing to come out of the Bears' 17-14 win over the Bengals Sunday I think is that it showed what kind of character the Bears have on this year's team. They were down for most of the game, and

**DOUG BUFFONE**



it came down to how well they played at the end of the game. And that's when the defense and Mike Tomczak really came through to pull out the win.

Even after the Bears pulled ahead, the defense had to stop the Bengals one more time after a fumble, and the unit answered the call. It was no cakewalk for the Bears, and that's how it's going to be all year. So they might as well get used to it.

They made the big comeback against a team that was in the Super Bowl last season — that's nothing to take lightly. It's a good win for a young team like the Bears. Remember, it wasn't Green Bay, Tampa Bay or Atlanta that they beat out there Sunday. It was a Super Bowl contender.

You also can't say enough about the way Dan Hampton played. He showed he's still got plenty left inside of him. He simply did everything out there. He took over the line and led the defense on its charge.

I also thought the play-calling on defense was excellent. The Bears used the blitz a lot Sunday, and it worked well for them.

I always say things start with the linemen for the Bear offense, and Sunday was no exception. I thought the line ripped some huge holes for the running backs, plus the one that Tomczak used to score on a quarterback draw.

Tomczak also had plenty of time to throw.

He only was sacked once and he wasn't rushed a lot, either.

And if you give Neal Anderson holes like he had Sunday in every game, he'll consistently give you 140 yards rushing.

The only thing that concerns me is the Bears' turnover ratio. That's the thing that kept them down last year, and it's probably the biggest thing they have to improve on this year. And they'll need to improve it in time for next Sunday, when the Vikings come to town in another big game early in the season.

If the Bears can take that game, they'll be in great shape for the rest of the season.

## Doug's Picks

Bears by 3 over Vikings  
*Chicago got a big boost Sunday*

Falcons by 3 over Cowboys  
*Somebody has to win it*

Chiefs by 3 over Raiders  
*Schottenheimer has K.C. improved*

Patriots by 6 over Dolphins  
*New England needs this game*

Saints by 6 over Packers  
*Green Bay still has a way to go*

Browns by 3 over Jets  
*Cleveland off to a great start*

Eagles by 2 over Redskins  
*Philadelphia looks tough early*

Bengals by 3 over Steelers  
*Pittsburgh will give them a fight*

49ers by 3 over Buccaneers  
*Testaverde is starting to mature*

Giants by 4 over Lions  
*New York won't slip in this one*

Seahawks by 6 over Cardinals  
*Phoenix will struggle after first week*

Oilers by 3 over Chargers  
*McMahon won't save this game*

Colts by 3 over Rams  
*Indianapolis still a tough team*

Bills by 6 over Broncos  
*Buffalo the class of the AFC*

## DRAW PLAY By Dick Kulpa

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"...BUT DITKA'S  
BEARS STEAL  
THE SHOW AS  
THEY BEAT  
CINCINNATI  
17-14!"





## Q & A With Mike Ditka

# Receivers could be featured more



The Bears started Dante Jones at right linebacker Sunday ahead of Jim Morrissey, but Mike Ditka said that could change in upcoming games. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

**Q: Will Wendell Davis be one of your starters at wide receiver?**

**A:** We're going to share time. That's about as much as I can say. But we'll probably start Wendell. It doesn't matter which one starts to me. If you're going to talk about rewarding a guy, that would probably be the reason we start him.

But we've never really had a legitimate chance to feature Wendell. We're not a team that tries to feature one receiver. We didn't try to feature him (against the Raiders) but we did feature him somehow. And maybe we should start featuring some people because he did awfully well.

**Q: The Bear defense usually plays with emotion, but that hasn't always been evident in the preseason. Does that concern you?**

**A:** That's the only thing that I haven't seen this year. We are less emotional because I think it's hard to put that emotion in every preseason game. But our guys are capable.

We need the pass rush off the defense. That's the main thing. I think the other things will come. And I hope the pass rush comes without blitzing a lot of people.

**Q: How has the development of Mike Tomczak gone?**

**A:** People who set goals in life and don't get deterred by all the obstacles in their way or by all the rhetoric people tell them they can or can't do, those are usually the people that become successful.

I don't think Mike ever listened to what the people said about his limitations, I don't think he listens too much to what they say about his qualities. But I think he had some goals, and I think that's very admirable. A lot of people have goals, but they never do anything about them. He did something about them. He worked on his shortcomings and made himself a helluva lot better quarterback than anyone in this room ever thought he would have been. And I don't think you've seen the best of him yet. And Jim Harbaugh will be, too.

They're both very similar kids. They have a good work ethic. They're not afraid to go out and work. I kind of like that. I don't see any prima donna in them.

I thought (Tomczak's) Washington game

last year might have been as good as I've seen anybody play. He's matured into the job. But he's going to make some mistakes. Let's not induct him yet. But I like what I see. I don't think he'll ever quit out there. I think he'll always try to win and always try to give the best effort he can.

**Q: How does the team look entering the season?**

**A:** The only thing that's wrong in our stats offensively is fumbles. That's the only thing that's bad. And points scored — we average 23 points a game. That's not as good as it has to be. We have to be better there.

I think the capabilities firepower-wise are there. We have more offensively than we had even in '85. That's hard to say when you're scoring 40-some points like we did in the Super Bowl.

Going in this year I think our guys believed we can do some better things offensively. And I know our defense believes they'll be maybe not a truly dominant defense, but they're going to be an exceptional defense because I think we understand what we're doing better.

**Q: How will you work the right linebacker spot with Dante Jones and Jim Morrissey this year?**

**A:** We're going to switch off. We'll start Dante in there. But I haven't even talked to Vince (Tobin) about it. In practice, Dante has been there and then we're going to put Jim in by situation.

**A: Have you ever thought about trying a no-huddle offense like Cincinnati's?**

**A:** Yeah, but first of all it takes a long time to do it. They worked on it for a while. I considered it, but every time I consider it my coaches say, 'Nah, let's go get a beer.'

**Q: Do you still get jitters before the first game of the season?**

**A:** I like to win them. It's no fun to lose them. That's where I get jitters. I don't like to lose. It's a big game for them and us. It's

no fun to open in front of your home fans and not play your best football. So that's our goal, to try to play the best we can. We can't control the other things. If we do the best we can, we'll be OK.

**Q: With two rookies, Trace Armstrong and Donnell Woolford, starting on**

**defense, how much extra help do you give them?**

**A:** None, we'll give them no extra help. They'll play their own game. Everything we do is a team defense. So they've got to fit into the team concept that we're trying to accomplish.

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## Game Wrapup

# Bears roll just in time

## Tomczak, defense come alive in second half

By Michael Polzin  
Managing Editor

CHICAGO — Line up Mike Tomczak and the Bears in the season opener against one of the previous year's Super Bowl teams, and they'll find a way to win.

It didn't look like they'd find a way during most of Sunday's game between the Bears and Bengals at Soldier Field. But Tomczak and his teammates finally got things right midway through the second half to notch a come-from-behind 17-14 win over Cincinnati before 64,730 fans.

Tomczak completed just six of his first 17 attempts with two interceptions before coming back to complete four of his last seven attempts on the Bears' go-ahead drive to pull out the win.

The defense, meanwhile, allowed three Cincinnati drives into Bear territory after the Bengals had taken a 14-7 lead in the second half. But the Bengals didn't score on any of the drives.

"Needless to say we're elated to come out of that one (with a win)," head coach Mike Ditka said. "Maybe we're fortunate. Maybe we did some of the things we had to do at the right time. But we were fortunate to beat a great football team today. It could have went either way."

It almost did end up going Cincinnati's way after the Bears grabbed their first lead in the game with just under five minutes to play. The drive started at Chicago's five-yard line, but the Bears quickly moved to their own 39 when Thomas Sanders converted one third-down attempt with a four-yard gain and Dennis Gentry caught a Tomczak pass for 21 yards on 3rd-and-10.

Two plays later Tomczak found Jim Thornton for a 29-yard completion to move the Bears to the Cincinnati 31. Six plays later on 2nd-and-10 from the Bengals' 20, Tomczak hit a wide open Thornton across the middle for the go-ahead touchdown.

It was Thornton's first touchdown catch in the NFL. "I was secondary," Thornton said. "(Tomczak) looked off the receiver and came back to me and I'll catch them as long as they throw them to me."

"It was just a crossing route. They played the wrong defense against it and I sat in the pocket. I was wide open in the pocket."

"I'm very pleased with Mike's performance," Ditka said. "I have no problem with it. I don't care if people boo, scream, holler

or whatever their analysis may be. Mike tried to make the plays he had to make. He tried to push it downfield a couple times and you can say he shouldn't have done it."

"But you don't get to be a great quarterback unless you take some risks. And he had pretty good calculated risks. They made some pretty good plays on him. I thought he responded and came back and threw some outstanding balls."

Tomczak said it helped him to get a little angry on the field after his two interceptions earlier in the game. "Maybe it's better when I'm upset," he said. "Maybe I should just have these guys beat me up before I go out there to get my head screwed on right."

The Bears appeared to have the game wrapped up until Brad Muster fumbled and Cincinnati's Joe Kelly recovered at the Bengal 36 with 1:23 to play.

"He had the ball pretty well covered up and then a hole opened and he thought he could get through it," Ditka said. "He left his feet, which was a mistake, and the guy's helmet hit the ball. You hate to see that happen because he's a good football player. But maybe it will teach a great lesson."

The Bengals could only get to the Bear 48-yard line before Esiason threw four incompletions to turn the ball back to the Bears with 30 seconds to play. Tomczak then ran out the clock to preserve the win.

"When the defense had to make the plays, they made them," Ditka said.

One of the players constantly giving Cincinnati trouble Sunday was defensive tackle Dan Hampton, who had five tackles, two assists, two sacks for 21 yards in losses, a blocked field-goal attempt and two passes defensed.

"Dan played awfully well. I'm so happy for Dan," Ditka said. "I've said it all along. Our defensive line and offensive line are going to be the keys to what we do. I thought Dan's play was outstanding, and I thought Richard (Dent) was outstanding. There was great pressure."

But the Bears found themselves lucky to be tied with the Bengals at halftime, 7-7.

Cincinnati almost moved the ball at will on their opening possession to start the game as it went from its own 23-yard line to the Bear 15 in just seven plays. But a sack by Ron Rivera for a 12-yard loss pushed the Bengals back to the 27-yard line, and a 45-yard field-goal attempt by James Gallery was blocked by Hampton.

"I'm very happy with the way we came around on defense," Ditka said. "The first drive they made us look like we didn't even know what football was. We had no idea what they were doing. But we made some adjustments, and even though we didn't stop everything we played better."

Things started off just as poorly for the Bear offense when, on his first pass attempt of the season, Tomczak was intercepted by Rickey Dixon just over midfield. Dixon returned the pickoff 28 yards to the Bear 25-yard line.

"I did force it in there," Tomczak said. "I threw it late to Neal. He cleared the linebackers pretty well, and I just tried forcing it late. I can't do that to our ballclub."

Six plays later the Bengals were on the board on a four-yard touchdown pass from Esiason to James Brooks.

The pass went to rookie Donnell Woolford's side of the field. But while Woolford was covering his receiver, Brooks slipped out of the backfield and there was no other Bear on that side of the field to pick him up. And Brooks went untouched into the end zone.

"That was a messed up coverage," Woolford said. "The linebacker was supposed to

be up there. I was on my man and had to come off him but the ball was already thrown."

The Bengals were in a no-huddle offense at the time, and Woolford said that contributed to the mixup on defense. "The (defensive) call got in, but it was kind of late. They were getting ready to run the play, and sometimes the corners can't get the call (in time)," he said.

The Bears tried to come right back and drove from their own 28 to the Bengals' six-yard line, where they had 1st-and-goal. A four-yard run by Neal Anderson got them to the two, and a one-yard gain by Anderson gave the Bears a 3rd-and-goal at the one-yard line.

Anderson again got the call but was stopped for no gain. The Bears decided to go for the touchdown on 4th-and-goal, but again the Cincinnati defense held as Muster was stopped for no gain up the middle.

The Bears finally got on the board and tied the score just before the end of the half when Tomczak moved the Bears in 1:30 from their own 20 to the Cincinnati 11-yard line. From there, Tomczak took the ball into the end zone himself on a quarterback draw up the middle.



Dave Duerson makes sure Bengals' quarterback Boomer Esiason stays down after he's sacked in Sunday's 17-14 Bears' win at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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# Bears-Bengals game statistics

## SCORING SUMMARY

Cincinnati Bengals	7	0	7	0	—	14
Chicago Bears	0	7	3	7	—	17
Bengals, 1, 5:08, J. Brooks 4-yard pass from B. Esiason, J. Gallery, kick, 6-25, 7-0						
Bears, 2, 14:50, M. Tomczak, 11-yard run, K. Butler, kick, 9-80, 7-7						
Bengals, 3, 8:28, I. Woods 5-yard run, J. Gallery, kick, 12-66, 14-7						
Bears, 3, 11:40, K. Butler 29-yard field goal, 5-20, 14-10						
Bears, 4, 10:06, J. Thornton 20-yard pass from M. Tomczak, K. Butler, kick, 14-95, 14-17						
Attendance: 64,730; Tickets Distributed: 66,946; Unused: 2,216; Time: 3:13						
Weather: Partly cloudy, cool; Temperature: 64 degrees; Humidity: 61;						
Wind: N 10 mph						

## FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bengals	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	23	19
By Rushing	10	12
By Passing	11	6
By Penalty	2	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	9-18-50%	4-10-40%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-4-25%	1-3-33%
TOTAL NET YARDS	330	365
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	80	63
Av. Gain per Off. Play	4.1	5.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	179	212
Total Rushing Plays	41	38
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	4.4	5.6
NET YARDS PASSING	151	153
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	3-33	1-6
Gross Yds. Passing	184	159
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	36-18-0	24-10-2
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	4.2	6.4
KICKOFF — NO. IN END ZONE —		
TOUCHBACKS	3-0-0	4-0-0
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	4-41.3	2-41
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs + PATs HAD BLOCKED	2-0	0-0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE		
(Excluding Kickoff Returns)	47	33
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	1-0	2-33
No. and Yds. KO Returns	4-80	3-93
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	2-47	0-0
PENALTIES — NUMBER AND YARDS	4-21	6-39
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	2-0	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	2	2
Rushing	1	1
Passing	1	1
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	2-2	2-2
FG MADE — ATT.	0-1	1-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	31:50	28:10

## FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### Cincinnati Bengals

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
<b>RUSHING</b>					
J. Brooks	13	88	6.8	28	0
I. Woods	20	62	3.1	7	1
B. Esiason	5	20	4.0	12	0
E. Ball	2	4	2.0	3	0
S. Jennings	1	5	5.0	5	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	TD	LG	Had Int.
<b>PASSING</b>							
B. Esiason	36	18	184	3/33	1	26	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
<b>PASS RECEIVING</b>				
J. Brooks	5	46	15	1
E. Kattus	5	40	13	0
I. Hillary	1	10	10	0
T. McGee	2	38	26	0
K. Smith	2	19	13	0
M. Martin	2	23	14	0
R. Holman	1	8	8	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>				
R. Dixon	2	47	28	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
<b>PUNTING</b>						
L. Johnson	4	165	41.3	1	1	45

## PUNT RETURNS

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
I. Hillary	1	0	0	0	0
*Downed	1	0	0	0	0

## KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
E. Ball	1	19	19	0
S. Jennings	3	61	22	0

## FUMBLES

	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
I. Hillary	1	0	0	0	0
R. Jackson	0	1	0	0	0
B. Esiason	1	0	-2	0	0
J. Brooks	0	1	0	0	0

## Chicago Bears

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TD
N. Anderson . . . . .	21	146	7.0	35	9
B. Muster . . . . .	4	11	2.8	6	0
T. Sanders . . . . .	5	23	4.6	13	0
M. Buford . . . . .	1	6	6.0	6	0
M. Tomczak . . . . .	5	14	2.8	11	1
D. Gentry . . . . .	2	12	6.0	10	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
<b>PASSING</b>								
M. Tomczak	24	10	159	1/6	1	29	2	

## PASS RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
J. Thornton	4	86	29	1
D. Gentry	3	39	21	0
B. Muster	1	4	4	0
R. Morris	1	21	21	0
C. Boso	1	9	9	0

## PUNTING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
M. Buford	2	82	41.0	0	0	45

## PUNT RETURNS

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
M. Green	2	0	33	24	0
*Touchback	1	0	0	0	0
*Out of bounds	1	0	0	0	0

## KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
D. Gentry	3	93	63	0

## FUMBLES

	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
B. Muster	1	0	0	0	0

## DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

### Cincinnati Bengals

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Thomas	2	0	0	0	0	3	0
Billups	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dixon	8	0	0	0	2	2	0
Fulcher	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
Jackson	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wilcots	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barker	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kelly	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Walker	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Krumrie	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Skow	2	0	1	6	0	0	0
Hammerstein	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
McClendon	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zander	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buck	6	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Chicago Bears

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Woolford	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Duerson	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	3	3	0	0	0	1	0
Jackson	11	1	0	0	0	1	0
Stinson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
Pruitt	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	3	0	1	12	0	0	0
Perry	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	4	2	0	0	0	1	0
Armstrong	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	5	2	2	21	0	2	0



Mike Tomczak gives the signals in the huddle in his first regular-season game as the Bears' No. 1 quarter-

back. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



# Anderson gets it all done

By David Marran  
Bear Report Staff

CHICAGO — Running back Neal Anderson rushed for a career high 146 yards in the Bears' 17-14 win over the Cincinnati Bengals Sunday, but his most important contribution came when he wasn't near the ball.

The Bears were trailing 14-10 as the game headed into the fourth quarter. Quarterback Mike Tomczak, with the aid of Thomas Sanders, James Thornton and Dennis Gentry, had the offense primed to take the lead when he dropped back to pass on a 2nd-and-10 from the Bengal 20.

Anderson began to flare to the right when he saw Cincinnati safety David Fulcher blitzing full force at Tomczak. Anderson stepped in front of Fulcher and leveled him. Tomczak then whipped a strike to Thornton, who ricocheted into the end zone with the clinching touchdown.

"I thought it would be a safety blitz," Anderson said. "David Fulcher is one of their guys who loves to blitz a lot. He was coming in and I stepped up and made a pretty good block on him and kept him out. Tomczak handled it from there."

Anderson gained his personal best 146 yards on only 21 rushes for a 7.0-yard per carry average.

"I'm encouraged," said the fourth-year veteran out of Florida. "It feels good to get off to a start like this. It will give us confidence going into each week that we can run the ball because that's what the Bears are all about. We run the ball and then we throw it to keep people off-balance."

The critical, fourth quarter block was just one of many key plays Anderson pulled off in Sunday's opener.

Anderson ignited the Bears' first scoring march with a 23-yard gain. Almost as important as the yardage was the fact that he got out of bounds, stopping the clock with 1:37 until halftime. On the next play, Anderson

took an inside hand-off out of the shotgun and scampered eight yards. Seven plays later, the Bears had their first score.

Anderson carried the momentum he created for himself at the end of the first half into the early stages of the second half when he ripped off an important and spectacular run.

It came on the first play of the third quarter and started out as a simple pitch-out around the right end. Shortly after he got the ball, Anderson saw some daylight. He fought through the line and accelerated into the open field up the right sideline. When he got to his own 40, Anderson had just one Bengal to beat for a score. But he slipped on the Soldier Field grass as he began to cut and the run was halted at 35 yards.

"The long run gave the offense a lot of momentum," Anderson said. "We were talking about getting the ball first in the second half and we needed to get something out of it. I think the long run gave us a little spark."

"It was a way of carrying us into the final half. A play like that gives everybody some confidence," Anderson said.

The slip robbed Anderson of a scintillating run that would have outgained the brilliant 80-yard scoring sprint he turned in against the Green Bay Packers last Nov. 27.

"I was disappointed," he said. "I thought that one would go for a touchdown. I didn't think I could beat the guy to the end zone because he had an angle on me. I tried to cut back and I planted my left foot and the ground just came up and that was it. I blame that one on the grass."

After blaming the grass for his lone downfall Sunday, Anderson praised his offensive line and his summer workout program for his many successes.

"The offensive line did a real good job," Anderson said. "We had some holes to run through and that makes a difference. The credit should go to the offensive line. They made holes and when the holes are there, the yards will come."



Neal Anderson jumps through the Cincinnati defensive line for some extra yardage on his way to a career-high 146 yards rushing Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

The fact that the best game of his career came after a rigorous summer workout program was not lost on Anderson. The workouts melted 15 pounds off his 5-11 frame and put him in the best shape of his career.

"I think it helped," Anderson said. "The off-season program definitely had some part

in it. I felt real good. In the third and fourth quarters, I had a lot of energy and I wasn't tired."

"I worked hard in the off-season. It was a long preseason and it was time to have some fun today."

## Esiason the right man for no-huddle offense

By Michael Polzin  
Managing Editor

CHICAGO — The Bengals ran their no-huddle offense quite a bit Sunday, and Bears' linebacker Ron Rivera thinks Cincinnati has the perfect quarterback for it.

While running the Bengal offense Boomer Esiason audibled almost 60 percent of the time by Rivera's estimate. "I think he read

our defense fairly well until we changed things up and started moving around."

Rivera said Esiason ran the offense this way: "He'd come up to the line and he'd see where the strong safety is. He'd see what the front was, which was the strength of our defense, and then run away from it."

"So what we started to do was we would line up in one thing and then shift to what we were going to play. Then he was audi-

bling to what he thought was the weakness and then we turned it into the strength. And that's how we were able to start stopping them."

Once the Bears started doing that, they were able to stop the Bengals in key situations.

The Bears also blitzed a lot more than they usually do.

"We blitzed a lot on the outside," Rivera said. "And a couple times they caught us. They did a great job of audibling away from our strengths and into the weakness of the defense. And you have to give credit to Esiason because it was a heck of a game plan."

•**WENDELL DAVIS LEFT THE GAME** early after aggravating a hamstring pull on the same play that Mike Tomczak scored on an 11-yard run. The Bears said Davis' status will be day-to-day.

•**WILLIAM PERRY MADE HIS** debut Sunday on the kickoff coverage team at the start of the game. Perry didn't get in on the tackle on the opening kickoff, though.

Also on the kickoff coverage unit were the Bears' top three draft picks, Donnell Woolford, Trace Armstrong and John Roper.

Also on special teams, Dennis Gentry and Mark Green were the kickoff return men, and Green also was the punt returner while Gentry was used on the punt coverage team.

Green returned one of the Bengals' punts in the first half for 24 yards.

Veterans used by the Bears on the kick return team included Matt Suhey, Cap Boso

and Dick Chapura.

In other lineup moves:

Perry played every third series at defensive tackle, going in alternately for Steve McMichael and Dan Hampton.

Dante Jones started the game at right linebacker but was replaced by Mickey Pruitt on the Bengals' second series of the second quarter.

That was after Jones gave up a 15-yard pass and missed a couple tackles.

•**THE TWO BEARS LISTED AS** inactive for the game were wide receiver Glen Kozlowski and linebacker Troy Johnson. Both weren't expected to suit up because of injuries.

•**THE BEARS OPENED THE SEASON** with just two quarterbacks on their roster for the first time since 1973, when Bobby Douglass and Gary Huff were at the offensive helm.

•**FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1983** the Bears had at least one rookie in their starting lineup. Rookies Trace Armstrong and Donnell Woolford started Sunday for the Bears. The last rookie to start for Chicago on opening day was cornerback Mike Richardson.

•**SUNDAY'S WIN OVER CINCINNATI** was the Bears' sixth straight opening day win, their 14th victory in their last 15 games vs. an AFC team at Soldier Field and increased their record in September over the past four years to 14-1.

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Dennis Gentry fights for an extra yard after grabbing a pass in the second half of Sunday's 17-14 win by the Bears over the Bengals. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



Mike Ditka watches the Bears-Bengals action carefully Sunday from the sidelines at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



William Perry (top), Dave Duerson (middle) and Vestee Jackson gang up to bring down Cincinnati run-

ning back Ickey Woods in Sunday's game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



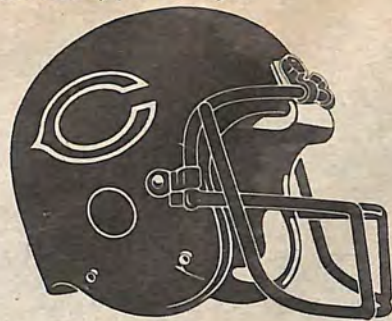
# Next Week's Opponent

## Chicago Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	205	25	3	Michigan
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	204	26	5	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	29	8	Texas Tech
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	198	26	5	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	27	5	Texas A&M
21	Donnell Woolford	DB	5-9	187	23	R	Clemson
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	212	28	7	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	194	27	6	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	CB	6-0	186	25	4	Washington
25	Brad Muster	FB	6-3	231	24	2	Stanford
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	213	31	10	Penn State
29	Dennis Gentry	WR	5-8	180	30	8	Baylor
31	Mark Green	HB	5-11	184	22	R	Notre Dame
32	Lemuel Stinson	DB	5-9	159	23	2	Texas Tech
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	24	4	Florida
36	Markus Paul	S	6-2	199	23	R	Syracuse
43	Lorenzo Lynch	DB	5-9	199	26	3	Cal. St.-Sacramento
49	David Tate	DB	6-0	177	24	2	Colorado
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	230	30	9	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	227	26	5	Michigan St.
52	Mickey Pruitt	LB	6-1	206	24	2	Colorado
53	Dante Jones	LB	6-1	236	24	2	Oklahoma
55	John Roper	LB	6-1	228	23	R	Texas A&M
57	Tom Thayer	G	6-4	270	27	5	Notre Dame
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	240	27	6	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	272	28	7	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	260	29	9	Iowa
64	Dave Zawatson	T	6-4	274	23	R	California
65	Tony Woods	DT	6-4	274	23	R	Oklahoma
67	Jerry Fontenot	G	6-3	272	22	R	Texas A&M
68	Chris Dyko	T	6-6	305	23	R	Washington St.
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	330	28	5	Clemson
73	John Wojciechowski	G	6-4	270	25	3	Michigan St.
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	278	29	7	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	268	31	10	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	283	31	9	USC
80	James Thornton	TE	6-2	242	24	2	Cal. State-Ful.
82	Wendell Davis	WR	5-11	188	23	2	LSU
84	Ron Morris	WR	6-1	195	24	3	SMU
85	Dennis McKinnon	WR	6-1	177	27	6	Florida St.
86	Cap Boso	TE	6-3	240	25	3	Illinois
88	Glen Kozlowski	WR	6-1	205	26	3	BYU
92	Troy Johnson	LB	6-0	236	24	2	Oklahoma
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	259	23	R	Florida
94	Dick Chapura	DT	6-3	275	25	2	Missouri
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	268	28	7	Tennessee St.
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	274	31	11	Arkansas

Injured reserve: DT Steve O'Malley.

Reserved/non-football injury: Maurice Douglass.



## Facts and Figures

**Kickoff** — 3 p.m. Central time, Sun., Sept. 17  
**Site** — Soldier Field, Chicago.

**Playing surface** — Natural grass.

**Series history** — The Vikings hold a 28-25-2 edge in the series, including a sweep of the two-game season series last year. The Vikings won 31-7 at Soldier Field and 28-27 at the Metrodome in 1988. The Bears swept the season series in 1987 and won six of the last seven games before that.

**Radio-TV coverage** — The game will be televised live in Chicago by CBS-TV, Channel 2 in Chicago. WGN-Radio (720 AM) and the Bears' Radio Network also will carry the game live.



Minnesota defensive end Chris Doleman

## Minnesota Vikings

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Teddy Garcia	K	5-10	187	25	2	Northeast Louisiana
9	Tommy Kramer	QB	6-2	202	34	13	Rice
11	Wade Wilson	QB	6-3	208	30	9	East Texas State
13	Bucky Scribner	P	6-0	213	29	5	Kansas
16	Rich Gannon	QB	6-3	199	23	3	Delaware
20	Darrin Nelson	RB	5-9	184	30	8	Stanford
26	Audrey McMillan	CB	6-0	190	27	4	Houston
27	Brad Edwards	S	6-1	200	23	2	South Carolina
29	Darrell Fullington	S	6-1	197	25	2	Miami (Fla.)
30	Issiac Holt	CB	6-2	202	27	5	Alcorn State
31	Rick Fenney	RB	6-1	232	24	3	Washington
36	Allen Rice	RB	5-10	204	27	6	Baylor
39	Carl Lee	CB	5-11	183	28	7	Marshall
42	D.J. Dozier	RB	6-0	198	23	3	Penn State
46	Alfred Anderson	RB	6-1	223	28	6	Baylor
47	Joey Browner	S	6-2	210	39	7	USC
48	Reggie Rutland	CB	6-1	194	25	3	Georgia Tech
49	Travis Curtis	S	5-10	180	23	3	West Virginia
50	Ray Berry	LB	6-2	225	26	3	Baylor
51	David Howard	LB	6-2	232	27	5	Cal State Lg. Beach
54	Jesse Solomon	LB	6-0	232	25	4	Florida St.
55	Scott Studwell	LB	6-2	228	35	13	Illinois
56	Chris Doleman	DE	6-5	262	28	5	Pittsburgh
57	Mike Merriweather	LB	6-2	221	29	7	Pacific
59	Mark Dusbabek	LB	6-3	238	25	1	Minnesota
60	Mark Rodenhauer	C	6-5	252	28	2	Illinois
62	Chris Foote	C	6-4	255	32	7	USC
63	Kirk Lowdermilk	C	6-3	267	26	5	Ohio State
64	Randall McDaniel	G	6-3	271	25	2	Arizona State
65	Gary Zimmerman	T	6-6	286	27	4	Oregon
68	John Adickes	C	6-3	261	25	3	Baylor
69	Todd Kalis	G	6-5	284	24	2	Arizona St.
72	David Huffman	G	6-6	284	32	10	Notre Dame
73	Curtis Greer	DE	6-4	258	30	9	Michigan
74	Brian Habib	T	6-7	273	24	1	Washington
75	Keith Millard	DT	6-5	262	27	5	Washington St.
76	Tim Irwin	T	6-7	285	30	9	Tennessee
78	Kurt Becker	G/T	6-5	280	31	8	Michigan
80	Jim Gustafson	WR	6-1	179	28	4	St. Thomas
81	Anthony Carter	WR	5-11	189	29	5	Michigan
82	Carl Hilton	TE	6-3	230	25	4	Houston
83	Steve Jordan	TE	6-3	239	28	8	Brown
84	Hassan Jones	WR	6-0	192	25	4	Florida St.
86	Darryl Ingram	TE	6-2	228	23	R	California
87	Leo Lewis	WR	5-8	172	33	9	Missouri
89	Anthony Allen	WR	5-11	182	30	5	Washington
90	John Galvin	LB	6-3	226	24	2	Boston College
94	Thomas Strauthers	DE	6-4	265	28	5	Jackson St.
96	Tim Newton	DT	6-0	277	26	5	Florida
97	Henry Thomas	NT	6-2	267	24	3	LSU
99	Al Noga	DE	6-1	261	23	2	Hawaii



The biggest reason why the Bears won the NFC Central Division title in 1988 is the Packers knocked off the Vikings twice. With that kind of help, the Bears didn't need to beat Minnesota.

But getting that kind of help from other teams can't always be counted on. The Bears would be much better off beating Minnesota themselves.

Mike Ditka has made his reputation and turned the Bears into winners by beating up on the teams within the division. Green Bay, Tampa Bay and Detroit usually account for six wins a year, and at least a split with the Vikings gives the Bears almost a guaranteed .500 record. All that's left for them to do with the remaining games is split them to make the playoffs.

The Bears want to keep the Central Division their division, not the Vikings'. At the same time, the Vikings realize the importance of winning the division and using it as a stepping stone to the playoffs.

"Our whole emphasis and focus for 1989 is on winning the Central Division," Vikings head coach Jerry Burns said. "We've been in the playoffs the last two years, both times

as a wild card, and I don't think there is any question that we are one of the top teams in football. We're no longer a team on the rise. We're there. We've got the players, our staff has come together as a cohesive group, and we've got excellent support from management. Everybody's goal is winning the Super Bowl, and it's a goal we're capable of achieving. But the first and most important step is winning the Central Division and gaining the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs."

Throughout the entire team's history, though, the Vikings have never managed to win the games they needed to. Whether it's four losses in the Super Bowl or dropping a pass that would have gotten them into the championship game or losing to inferior teams, Minnesota always seems to be a step away.

The Vikings did not get off to a fast start this season as they were bogged down with contract holdouts. Tight end Steve Jordan still was missing last week, though Minnesota finally signed Joey Browner, Anthony Carter and David Howard just before the regular season opened.

They also picked up former Bears guard Kurt Becker and center John Adickes off waivers last week. They wouldn't have done that just to get a little inside information on the Bear offense, would they have?

No matter, it probably wouldn't help them anyway because the Bears change the audible code words each week.

From a team that puts its cheerleaders on roller skates and brings farm animals into the stadium, though, you expect these things.

What shouldn't be expected of the Vikings is losing games to teams in the lower half of the division. Their wins against the Bears won't mean as much if the Vikings can't beat the Packers, Buccaneers and Lions twice this year.

The Bears, in the meantime, shouldn't worry about beating Minnesota twice. A split with the Vikings and a sweep of the remaining division rivals should give the Bears a solid grip on their sixth straight division title.

The Bears have won their last 24 games against the Packers, Buccaneers and Lions, and eight of their last 11 against the Vikings.

The last two years one team has swept both matches. The Vikings took both in 1988,

winning easily in Chicago 31-7 and fighting off a second-half Bear rally to win 28-27 in Minnesota.

In 1987 it was the Bears' turn to win easily in Chicago, posting a 27-7 victory. Chicago also won in the Metrodome, 30-24.

This game also will be a good test for the young players and new starters for the Bears. At quarterback, Mike Tomczak will be throwing into a good secondary while trying to keep away from the pass rush of Chris Doleman. His second-half performance in Minnesota last year, though, should have his confidence level high entering the game.

Left defensive end Trace Armstrong has a mobile quarterback to worry about. Containment will be what he'll concentrate on.

And cornerback Donnell Woolford will get a good test going against receivers like Hassan Jones and Leo Lewis.

The Vikings also are showing off some young talent of their own. Five of their 1988 draft choices started in the preseason, including guard Randall McDaniel, safety Brad Edwards, defensive end Al Noga, guard Todd Kalis and safety Darrell Fullington.



## Chicago on offense

## OFFENSE

**Holder**  
18 Mike Tomczak  
**Punt returner**  
31 Mark Green  
**Kick returner**  
29 Dennis Gentry  
31 Mark Green

**Kicker**  
6 Kevin Butler  
**Punter**  
8 Maury Buford  
**Kick center**  
63 Jay Hilgenberg

**FB**  
25 Brad Muster  
26 Matt Suhey

**QB**  
18 Mike Tomczak  
4 Jim Harbaugh

**TB**  
35 Neal Anderson  
20 Thomas Sanders  
31 Mark Green

**WR**  
85 Dennis McKinnon  
29 Dennis Gentry

**TE**  
80 James Thornton  
86 Cap Boso

**RT**  
78 Keith Van Horne  
64 Dave Zawatson  
73 John Wojciechowski

**RG**  
57 Tom Thayer  
73 John Wojciechowski

**C**  
63 Jay Hilgenberg  
67 Jerry Fontenot

**LG**  
62 Mark Bortz  
73 John Wojciechowski

**LT**  
74 Jim Covert  
68 Chris Dyko  
73 John Wojciechowski

**WR**  
84 Ron Morris  
82 Wendell Davis  
88 Glen Kozlowski

## DEFENSE

**LCB**  
39 Carl Lee  
30 Issiac Holt

**LE**  
99 Al Noga  
97 Henry Thomas

**LT**  
97 Henry Thomas  
96 Tim Newton

**RT**  
75 Keith Millard  
94 Thomas Strauthers

**RE**  
56 Chris Doleman  
97 Henry Thomas

**RCB**  
48 Reggie Rutland  
26 Audrey McMillian

**LLB**  
51 David Howard  
59 Mark Dusbabek

**MLB**  
55 Scott Studwell  
50 Ray Berry  
90 John Galvin

**RLB**  
57 Mike Merriweather  
59 Mark Dusbabek  
54 Jesse Solomon

**SS**  
47 Joey Browner  
29 Darrell Fullington

**FS**  
27 Brad Edwards  
29 Darrell Fullington  
49 Travis Curtis

## Minnesota on offense

## OFFENSE

**Holder**  
13 Bucky Scribner  
16 Rich Gannon  
**Punt returner**  
87 Leo Lewis  
89 Anthony Allen  
**Kick returner**  
20 Darrin Nelson  
42 D.J. Dozier

**Kicker**  
2 Teddy Garcia  
**Punter**  
13 Bucky Scribner  
**Kick center**  
62 Chris Foote  
60 Mark Rodenhauser

**FB**  
46 Alfred Anderson  
31 Rick Fenney  
36 Allen Rice

**QB**  
11 Wade Wilson  
9 Tommy Kramer  
16 Rich Gannon

**RB**  
42 D.J. Dozier  
20 Darrin Nelson  
36 Allen Rice

**FL**  
84 Hassan Jones  
87 Leo Lewis  
89 Anthony Allen

**TE**  
82 Carl Hilton  
86 Darryl Ingram  
83 Steve Jordan

**RT**  
76 Tim Irwin  
74 Brian Habib

**RG**  
69 Todd Kalis  
72 David Huffman

**C**  
63 Kirk Lowdermilk  
62 Chris Foote  
60 Mark Rodenhauser

**LG**  
64 Randall McDaniel  
72 David Huffman  
60 Mark Rodenhauser

**LT**  
65 Gary Zimmerman  
74 Brian Habib

**WR**  
81 Anthony Carter  
80 Jim Gustafson

## DEFENSE

**LCB**  
21 Donnell Woolford  
32 Lemuel Stinson  
43 Lorenzo Lynch

**LE**  
93 Trace Armstrong  
65 Tony Woods

**LT**  
76 Steve McMichael  
72 William Perry  
94 Dick Chapura

**RT**  
99 Dan Hampton  
72 William Perry  
94 Dick Chapura

**RE**  
95 Richard Dent  
65 Tony Woods

**RCB**  
24 Vestee Jackson  
32 Lemuel Stinson  
43 Lorenzo Lynch

**SS**  
22 Dave Duerson  
49 David Tate  
43 Lorenzo Lynch

**LLB**  
59 Ron Rivera  
92 Troy Johnson  
55 John Roper

**MLB**  
50 Mike Singletary  
53 Dante Jones

**RLB**  
53 Dante Jones  
51 Jim Morrissey  
52 Mickey Pruitt

**FS**  
23 Shaun Gayle  
36 Markus Paul  
43 Lorenzo Lynch



# Bears vs. Minnesota

By JOHN DELCOS

## WHEN THE VIKINGS HAVE THE BALL

Last season, Wilson led the NFC in rating efficiency (91.5), completion percentage (61.4) and average gain per attempt (8.27). Credit Carter, who caught 72 passes for 1,225 yards, as a key factor for the third stat.

Wilson has superb touch on all his passes and has no hesitation to attack deep early in the game with Carter or Hassan Jones. Wilson also likes to throw to Pro Bowler Jordan on possession downs and inside the 10-yard line.

Nelson and D.J. Dozier had poor years and re-establishing a ground game is a priority.

Pro Bowl tackle Gary Zimmerman is the strength of a line lacking in depth. Center John Adickes and guard Kurt Becker, both cut by the Bears, were signed as free agents before the opener. Guard Randall McDaniel started 15 games as a rookie and is who the Vikings run behind in short-yardage situations. He also has the speed to lead Nelson on the sweep.

The timing is wrong.

When the Chicago Bears rumble with the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday at Soldier Field, it'll be like a misplaced holiday. It'll be fireworks in May, turkey in August. Bears-Vikings just doesn't have the same flavor, the same bite in September as it does in December.

Neither team is psychologically ready for such a key game this early. While the Bears are trying to become a team in Mike Tomczak's image, the Vikings were Team Turmoil during training camp. Considerable emotional development is needed by both clubs.

The Vikings' training camp was a study in greed and backbiting. Quarterback Wade Wilson, receiver Anthony Carter, tight end Steve Jordan, running back Darrin Nelson, linebackers Scott Studwell and Jesse Solomon, cornerback Carl Lee and safety Joey Browner spent considerable time thinking about their contracts rather than the Bears.

In fact, Carter, Jordan and Browner reported the week of the opener. All were angry, and none in top playing condition. All are expected to play the entire game on Sunday.

"I wish we had a little more time to finely tune this operation," said coach Jerry Burns. "I'm just glad we got everybody in."

The knock on the Vikings is they've had the talent to win but lacked the emotional fury to steal the NFC Central Division from Chicago. Two years ago, they came within five yards and a minute of beating Washington and going to the Super Bowl.

Last year, despite sweeping the Bears for the first time since 1980, the Vikings blew a shot at the division and the home field in the playoffs by losing to Green Bay — twice.

A team can draft speed, size and strength. It can't draft character.

"We need to work on developing a team-oriented approach," Burns said. "The morale of this team, the spirit of the team needs to be directed to a more unified approach. We've never had a high-level consistency that is needed to be a dominating team."

"We have the personnel and the ability to reach that level. We did not achieve it last year."

## KEY MATCHUPS

### VIKINGS CENTER KIRK LOWDERMILK vs. BEARS TACKLE DAN HAMPTON

In what will be a physical game, it's vital to establish the run. Should Lowdermilk control, it will be a step toward the Vikings dominating the line of scrimmage, which will give holes to Nelson and Dozier.

### VIKINGS WR ANTHONY CARTER vs. BEARS CB DONNELL WOOLFORD

Sometime during the game, Wilson will try to isolate Carter on the rookie. One slip, and it's six.

### VIKINGS TIGHT END STEVE JORDAN vs. BEARS S DAVE DUERSON

On third downs and near the goal line are situations in which Jordan is active. Defenses are so aware of Carter that Jordan is left with single coverage.

### BEARS QUARTERBACK MIKE TOMCZAK vs. VIKINGS S JOEY BROWNER

Browner is adept at disguising coverages and blitzes. He intercepted the Rams' Jim Everett for a touchdown in the playoffs.

### BEARS RB NEAL ANDERSON vs. VIKINGS LB SCOTT STUDWELL

Continued Page 17

## WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL

There are other defenses Tomczak would rather face. Keyed by five Pro

Bowlers, Minnesota ranked first, allowing 255 yards a game and had a plus 23 turnover ratio.

Defensive end Chris Doleman and tackle Keith Millard had eight sacks apiece; Studwell was solid against the

run; Lee had eight interceptions; and Browner is a black-belt at safety.

Not content, the Vikings traded for three-time Pro Bowl linebacker Mike Merriweather from Pittsburgh and signed free-agent end Curtis Greer.

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## The Official Call

# PAT rules differ in NFL, NCAA

**Q1:** I've never seen an NFL team try for a two-point extra-point like they do in college ball. Are the rules different in the NFL for extra-points? B.R. Green Bay, WI

**A1:** Yes, the rules on the extra-point try are different between the NFL and the NCAA. The NFL try starts on the two yard line, while the NCAA starts on the three. Also, the NFL can score only one point. Why? I can't think of any good reason the NFL won't allow the two-point try, unless there is a fear of too many owners having heart attacks from the additional excitement.

JEFFREY LEAF



**Q2:** It looks like the refs put their hands up in the air every time they blow their whistles. Is that right? Why are they doing that? Did they always do this? I can't remember seeing this in years past. F.S. Chicago, IL

**A2:** You're very observant. This is a procedure which started last year. In order to speed up the game, the 45-second clock was added. The old rule was that a team had 30 seconds to snap the ball after the Referee blew his whistle. If the teams were slow unpiling or if a player was questioning the Referee on a call, players could get a little extra rest. The new rule states that a team has 45 seconds to snap the ball from the time the previous play ends. The teams can no longer stall the start of the count. The 45 second count is started by any official signalling with a raised hand that the play is over. If there is a time-out or penalty enforcement, which delays the 45 second count, the old rule of 30 seconds from the Referee's whistle applies.

**Q3:** Encroachment? What the heck is that? I thought it is offside when the Defense jumps into the Offensive line. J.B. Minneapolis, MN

**A3:** There are a few differences which distinguish Encroachment from Offside. First, Encroachment is a dead ball foul while Offside is a live ball foul. This means that Encroachment occurs before the snap and doesn't let the play start, while Offside isn't a foul until the ball is snapped. Encroachment occurs when any player is in the neutral zone and contacts an opponent. Offside occurs when any player is in the neutral zone or beyond when the ball is snapped or kicked on a kick-off.

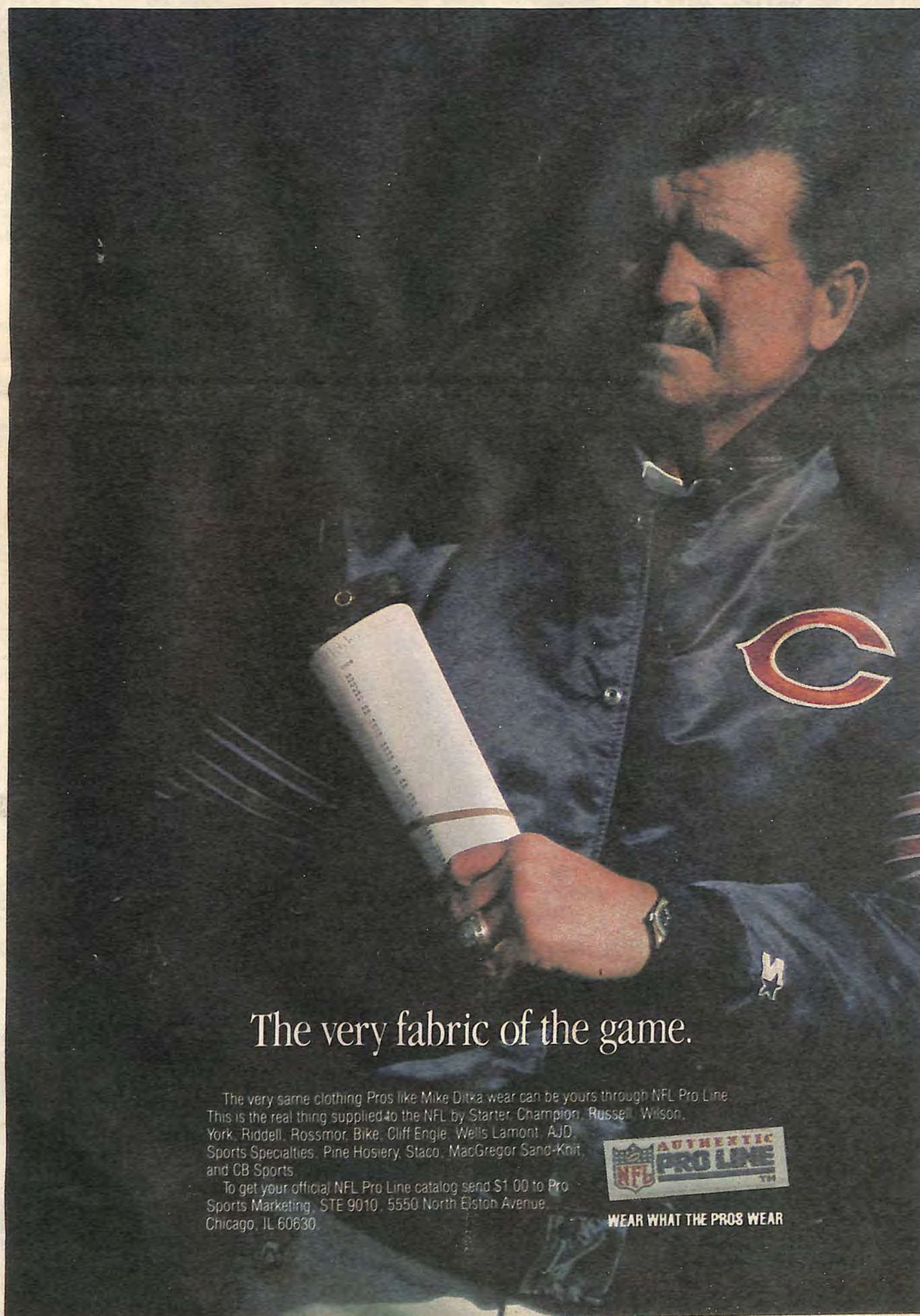
**Q4:** How can you refs call holding? Whenever the replay shows the player holding, it looks like the other blockers are doing close to the same thing. How do you make your decision? W.O. Green Bay, WI

**A4:** There are a number of factors involved in calling holding fouls. First, the official must see the hold. You see a bird's-eye view of the play in slow motion. It's quite a bit harder to pick up that hold

standing in the midst of that mayhem. Then, the official determines if the foul is at the point of attack of the play and if any advantage is gained. The purpose of the rules is to give each team an equal opportunity to win the game. Technically, a foul which occurs on the opposite side of the field from the play action is still a foul. If no advantage is gained, though, no flag should be dropped. Good preventive officiating practice says that you warn the player so he doesn't commit the same foul later when it

will be flagged.

When all is said and done, holding, like most judgement calls, is made based on the instinct and experience of the official. With so little time to think, calls are a reflex action. The eyes take in the action and subconsciously the data is processed. Into the conscious brain pops the thought, "That's a hold!" and the flag flies. If the official has been trained well and he sees all that is taking place, it will be a good call.



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## Bear Notebook

# Morrissey, Jones split time at LB

Linebacker **Jim Morrissey** is finally back at 100 percent after missing three weeks of training camp and most of the preseason with a pulled hamstring. But he won't get his starting right linebacker job back immediately.

Second-year player **Dante Jones**, who started at right linebacker in the final two preseason games, started again for the Bears Sunday against Cincinnati. Morrissey, who saw his first action of the year in the final preseason game against the Raiders, was a situational substitute.

Whether that's how the Bears continue to use Jones and Morrissey remains to be seen. Head coach **Mike Ditka** said he's still not sure how he's going to use the two linebackers and that it could change week to week.

Morrissey, a starter last season after **Otis Wilson** injured his knee in the preseason and in his fifth year with the Bears, wasn't upset about not starting the opener.

"Dante's playing well. As long as whoever's in there plays well, that's best for the team," he said.

The three weeks he missed in training camp hasn't slowed down Morrissey that much. "Maybe a little bit, but not really. I'd say maybe it has with my conditioning, but that's about it. My reads are good," Morrissey said.

•**WIDE RECEIVER GLEN KOZLOWSKI**, who injured his left knee in the fourth quarter of the Raiders' game, got an encouraging medical report last week.

The knee is the same one in which Kozlowski tore the anterior cruciate ligament in 1986. But a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) test showed no tears in the cartilage in the knee, just a sprain. It's possible Kozlowski could start practicing again this week.

Also injured in the Raiders' game was linebacker **Troy Johnson**. Initially, he was thought to have separated his shoulder, but that's been changed to just a shoulder

sprain. He still has a lot of pain and limited motion in the shoulder, and he could be out a while longer yet.

The Bears decided to keep both on their regular roster instead of on injured reserve. That means they'll be the two inactive players at least for the first two weeks of the season.

•**CENTER JAY HILGENBERG**, who injured his shoulder in the Raiders' game, didn't miss any practices last week and wasn't listed on the injury report.

Defensive back **David Tate** left one practice early with leg cramps.

•**THE BEARS FILLED THEIR** six-man developmental squad with players they released in the final cut. Signed to the squad were fullback **Bryan Bero**, quarterback **Brent Snyder**, linebacker **Steve Hyche**, tight end **James Coley**, wide receiver **Tom Waddle** and tailback **Brian Taylor**.

Any of them may be called up to the regular roster any time during the season, but it will count against the five free moves the team has for activating players off the injured reserve list.

•**FORMER BEARS KURT BECKER** and **John Adickes** were claimed off of waivers last week by the Vikings. Also, **Sean Smith**, released by Chicago in the final cutdown, was picked up by Dallas.

The Bears didn't sign anyone off waivers.

•**ANOTHER SIGN THAT MIKE TOMCZAK** has taken over for **Jim McMahon** as starting quarterback and one of the offensive leaders: he moved into McMahon's old locker last week.

Tomczak said the reason was simply to make room for the other new players on the team, and McMahon's old locker was open.

•**THE BEARS HAVE STARTED** the regular season well under Ditka, winning the last five openers in a row, not including Sunday's game. Why is that?

"Maybe the opposition had something to do with that — who we opened with," Ditka said. "Except when we had the Giants that

one year. You look at the other opposition we had and they weren't as tough. Even the first two years I was here we opened with Atlanta one year and Detroit the other year and we should have won both of those games. But we didn't.

"But (the Cincinnati) game would be a big game for us to win. There's no question about it, it would be a significant game for us to win. They're a team that came within 34 seconds of winning the Super Bowl. And they have a goal of getting back there and we have some goals. And it would be a step in the right direction with the people we have coming in right after them.

"I would say we're going to be ready to play. I think this team is on track, I really do."

•**HOW DOES THIS BEAR TEAM** compare with the 1985 team as both were heading into the regular season? Ditka likes the depth better on his 1989 team than the 1985 squad.

"We have a better offensive line," Ditka said. "I don't know about the defensive line because of longevity on **Steve (McMichael)** and **Dan (Hampton)**. But I know this — Steve and Dan will play and play hard and play the best they can. And I believe that will put them among the best tackles in the league.

"**Richard Dent** in 1985 was probably the premier defensive end in the league. Whether he can be that in 1989, that's up to Richard. But I think he can be. **Trace Arm-**

**strong**, I just happen to like him. He's greener than an apple, but he can play, and he plays hard. And the same with **Donnell (Woolford)**.

"Overall, the two (cornerbacks) in combination are better than what we had in 1985 — not any better than **Leslie Frazier**, because Leslie's a darn good corner.

"Our kicking game is the same as it was in 1985. And our receivers, we don't have that speed dimension. But we have other weapons. I think we're getting the ball to our tight ends better."

•**SPECIAL TEAMS GAVE UP** a lot of yardage in the preseason with mostly rookies on the squad. Ditka hopes that will change with the addition of a few veterans to the squad.

"We hope they're better," he said. "We changed them all around. We got a lot of veterans on there. A lot of the veteran linebackers and defensive backs and offensive backs will cover on special teams. **Neal (Anderson)** won't have to cover special teams. He won't have to return kicks, either."

•**DITKA SAID KEEPING 18 ROOKIES** in the past two years wasn't intentional. "We don't go out to keep nine rookies every year," he said. "I think if these people prove to us they're better in a backup position than the people we have, then we're going to keep them because eventually we feel they have the capabilities of starting."



Jim Morrissey is back from a hamstring pull in training camp, but he'll be sharing time at right linebacker with Dante Jones. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



Wide receiver Glen Kozlowski's knee injury in the Raiders' game wasn't as serious as originally thought. His knee was just sprained and he could be back practicing this week. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



# Central Issues

by John Delcos

## Division sees holdouts end



### Minnesota Vikings

He's in, but unhappy.

Receiver Anthony Carter ended his holdout but said he was still angry at general manager Mike Lynn. So angry, in fact, that before the opener against Houston he said: "I'm still upset because nothing has happened with the way I've been treated. If it were up to me, I wouldn't put my best foot forward. They might as well bench me."

After he slept on his comments, Carter apologized to his teammates and coach Jerry Burns, none of whom took him seriously. "He's a champion, a thoroughbred in every sense of the word," said Burns. "I'm not worried about him."

Said quarterback Wade Wilson: "I'll throw to him all day, no matter how many passes he drops."

**NOTEBOOK:** LB Jesse Solomon, TE Steve Jordan and S Joey Browner ended their holdouts. ... Signed C John Adickes and G Kurt Becker, both of whom were released by Chicago. ... Waived K Chuck Nelson and signed Teddy Garcia. ... Despite QB Tommy Kramer's hot training camp, Burns said there wouldn't be a quarterback controversy.

**THIS WEEK:** At Chicago. Vikings lead series, 28-25-2. Last meeting: Minnesota swept for the first time since 1980, winning 31-7 on the road and 28-27 at home.

**INJURIES:** G Randy Rasmussen (back).



### Detroit Lions

Three days before the opener, Heisman Trophy running back Barry Sanders was signed to a five-year, \$11.1 million deal.

"It's a long-awaited moment," said Sanders, who gave up his senior year of eligibility at Oklahoma State to be the third overall pick in the draft. "I didn't expect it to come this soon," he said.

Last year, Sanders ran for a NCAA record 2,628 yards and 39 touchdowns. In three seasons, he had 3,797 yards and 55 touchdowns.

"He'll add excitement, he'll add quickness," said coach Wayne Fontes. "Hopefully, he'll add touchdowns."

Sanders had been working out in San Francisco at the home of friend Roger Craig,

the 49er running back. Sanders practiced Friday and was expected to play in the opener against Phoenix.

**NOTEBOOK:** S Bennie Blades injured his hand early in training camp, but X-rays showed no break. He kept playing with mild discomfort. It wasn't until he shook hands that he discovered the extent of the injury. "It never improved, and then I shook hands and they crushed it," Blades said. ... K Eddie Murray converted 20 of 21 field goal attempts last season — his only miss a 52-yarder — and thought such consistency would be rewarded. But this is Detroit. "The Lions said they were all short field goals and they weren't any pressure kicks," Murray said. "My answer was that because of our offense, they were all pressure kicks. They might be the only points we'd score, and sometimes they were." ... QB Bob Gagliano was scheduled to start the opener after rookie Rodney Peete injured his knee. ... Signed RB Paul Palmer and waived RB Garry James.

**THIS WEEK:** At New York Giants. Lions lead series, 17-13-1. Last meeting: New York swept in 1988, winning 30-10 at home and 13-10 in overtime on the road.

**INJURIES:** Peete (knee), LBs George Jamison (ankle) and Chris Spielman (ankle), OTs Harvey Salem (shoulder) and Lomas Brown (knee/back), WR Keith McDonald (groin) and Blades (hand/knee).



### Tampa Bay Buccaneers

They won't win this year, maybe not next season, either. However, to a man, the Buccaneers say they started the season with a fresh attitude generated by a 3-1 preseason.

"Like we said, losing is habit-forming," said center Randy Grimes. "Winning can be habit-forming, too. I think this team is getting a little identity, a little mean streak."

How well the Buccaneers do depends on QB Vinny Testaverde, who threw a league-high 35 interceptions last year.

"Last year is still in the back of my mind," Testaverde said. "I think it'll be there until we start winning and playing well. Then people will forget about it and stop talking about it."

**NOTEBOOK:** In his first carry since breaking his neck in 1986, RB Nathan Wonsley scored on a one-yard run in a preseason game against Atlanta. ... Of the 22 players who started the opener, only six were Bucs before coach Ray Perkins.

**THIS WEEK:** San Francisco. 49ers lead series, 7-1. Last meeting: In 1987, 49ers 24, at Tampa Bay 10.

**INJURIES:** None reported.



### Green Bay Packers

It wasn't for what he wanted, but when Tony Mandarich ended his 45-day holdout by signing a four-year, \$4.4-million contract, he became the highest-paid offensive lineman in league history.

Mandarich originally wanted \$2 million a year but admitted he was dreaming. He said he ended up with what he realistically expected.

"I came out saying I wanted \$2 million, but what am I, stupid?" said Mandarich. "I know I'm not going to get \$2 million, especially playing on the offensive line. We bent and they bent. We met at \$1.1 million, and I'm happy with it."

Mandarich said it could take three weeks for him to get ready and admitted he was out of shape after his first practice.

"I feel like I weigh 600 pounds," Man-

darich said. "My legs are tired and sore. I'm not in bad shape as far as wind, but I'm not in hitting shape. After that, learning everything will be the biggest thing."

Green Bay is pointing toward the third game as Mandarich's target date.

"To miss an entire training camp is extremely difficult for a lineman to catch up on," coach Lindy Infante said. "We will never sacrifice this team's chance of winning to put somebody on the field. I don't care who he is."

**NOTEBOOK:** QB Randy Wright, and WRs Walter Stanley and Phil Epps were waived. ... OTs Keith Uecker and Mike Arey were suspended for steroid abuse. ... Tom Braatz, vice-president of operations, said the team passed on QB Timm Rosenbach in the supplemental draft because of off-the-field factors. "It was something we dug up four or five days before the draft," Braatz said.

**THIS WEEK:** New Orleans. Packers lead series, 10-4. Last meeting: In 1987, at New Orleans 33, Green Bay 24.

**INJURIES:** S Chuck Cecil (hamstring), CBs Mark Lee (knee) and Ron Pitts (knee).



Vikings wide receiver Anthony Carter was so mad at general manager Mike Lynn last week he threatened to not play as well as he could. He later apologized for the comment.

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# Duerson finds the time

## Bears' safety works hard at helping others

By JERRY BONKOWSKI

Bears safety Dave Duerson is a textbook example of successful time management.

Besides the long hours he puts in on the football field and in the weight room, Duerson is in a seemingly unending whirl, blitzing around throughout the Chicagoland area.

Duerson invariably has found the fastest way to get from point A to point B — he's had to out of necessity. Just look at what his usual schedule includes:

- He is arguably the most productive safety in professional football today. Last season, he led the Bear secondary with 105 tackles, second on the team only to middle linebacker Mike Singletary's 170 tackles.

- He has played in the last four Pro Bowls.

- He appears in weekly guest shots on WGN radio and WMAQ-TV.

- He practices with the all-jock Chicago Six rock band, for which Duerson plays trumpet (and other brass instruments) and percussion, as well as serving as a backup singer.

"We've mastered the art of noise," Duerson said. "We get it close; we give you some semblance of the real thing so that you say to yourself, 'Yeah, I know what that is.' But we're nowhere near perfect."

- He oversees the Indiana-based DAMCO Corporation and its Illinois subsidiary, DAMCO II, both of which help to keep youngsters away from drug and alcohol abuse.

- He collects fast cars: a Porsche 911 and BMW M3 ("They're both rockets," Duerson says with a sly smile on his face), plus a Mercedes 560 SEL and a Jeep Cherokee. "I've got a Lamborghini in my sights," he adds.

- He is active in the campaigns of several local politicians, with long-range plans of his own to eventually become a legislator on the state or federal level.

- He also is well on his way to becoming a golf fanatic, reads voraciously and loves to engage in all forms of watersports.

And yet, even with such a busy schedule Duerson, 28, still manages to spend time at his north-suburban Highland Park home with wife Alicia and the couple's three sons: Chase Anthony (age five), Tregg Russell (three) and Brock Matthew (five months).

How does the man they call "Double D" manage to squeeze all those things into his schedule?

"I just like to be involved," he says matter-of-factly.

Much of that involvement, particularly in his work with youngsters, comes from Duerson's parents, Julia and Arthur, who were quite active in community affairs in Duerson's hometown of Muncie, Ind.

"My mom and dad have always been involved in a lot of civic activities, and still are. That's all I've ever known from Day 1, to get involved, help others and bend over backwards to do whatever you can," said Duerson.

That same kind of philosophy has carried over throughout Duerson's career, including his college days at Notre Dame.

"One of the first things (then-Irish) coach Dan Devine told us as freshmen was we're not only playing for ourselves, but for the literally millions of other people who'd love to be in our shoes, not just the frustrated football player, but the individuals who have various physical handicaps who would never be blessed with that opportunity," Duerson said.

"So right away, we got that sense of responsibility and it's something that's carried over into my professional career."

The biggest off-field activity, and the one Duerson takes as much pride in as his on-field playing ability, is the involvement with DAMCO. Duerson began the program in his rookie year (1983) and has watched it blossom, affecting the lives of the nearly 20,000 kids who've taken part in it.

Much of DAMCO's activities revolve around off-season camps held at various venues throughout Illinois and Indiana.

Football is the common thread that brings the kids (from all types of family backgrounds, filthy-rich to dirt-poor) to these camps, but it quickly takes a back seat to the message Duerson and buddies such as fellow Bears Dennis McKinnon, Jim Covert, Richard Dent, Kevin Butler, Shaun Gayle and former Bear Otis Wilson try to impart.

"I started DAMCO because I lost four friends to drug or alcohol-related incidents," said Duerson. "So, when I got here in my rookie year, I knew it was time to get more involved and do something."

"Basically, we use football as a gimmick to get the kids there, to learn a little bit about football, but a lot about life. That's the concept we've carried and always will carry."

"My dream is to go in, do a camp and never have to return. I know that it's a physical impossibility to just simply wash the problem away."

"Our goal is to just change one kid's mind. If we can do that, then we've done our job. And I felt confident we've done that; there've been a number of situations already."

Duerson fondly points to one of his program's best success stories. A gang member who had several run-ins with the law in his hometown of East St. Louis, Ill. was "turned around in just one day by Otis Wilson," recalled Duerson.

That was four years ago. Instead of heading deeper into a life of crime and trouble, the youth is now a scholarship student starting his senior year at the University of Illinois, a fact that brings a broad smile to Duerson's face, knowing that DAMCO is succeeding at its goals.

Duerson's bright playing career has helped open several doors, not only for his DAMCO program, but for business-related ventures as well.

He was the spearhead behind the highly successful "Bear But Not Naked" calendars that featured several of Duerson's teammates modeling various types of men's clothing.

Duerson has other business opportunities in mind for the future, many of which will likely be partly-financed by the new four-year contract he signed last month.

Unfortunately for Bear fans, Duerson says when the new contract expires after the 1992 season, there will be no other renewals. After 10 years in the NFL, he says he'll be ready to hang up his cleats for the last time and head on to other challenges.

Two of those challenges will be a planned three-year stint in law school, followed by a long-term political career, with hopes of becoming either a state representative or U.S. senator.

"Those are the individuals that can make a difference," Duerson said. "It's a question of bettering government and bettering the lives of individuals, their constituents."

Duerson has already begun his preparation for his post-football political life. While still at Notre Dame, Duerson spent several months working in the Washington, D.C. office of Indiana Senator Richard Lugar.

Duerson counts Illinois Lieutenant Governor George Ryan as one of his closest friends, advisors and political mentor. It was Ryan who almost single-handedly helped Duerson form DAMCO II in Illinois.

Ideally, Duerson would like to someday follow in the footsteps of several former athletes-turned politicians such as basketball players Tom MacMillan and Bill Bradley and former NFL quarterback Jack Kemp, a former senator from New York who is now President George Bush's Secretary for Housing and Urban Development.

One thing most people do not know about Duerson is, despite all the success he's garnered in football from high school through college and in the pros, he's actually a much better baseball player.

In fact, his scholarship to Notre Dame was to play both sports, but because of the changing football climate at the time with new coach Gerry Faust, as well as having to learn two new positions during his four-year stint there, Duerson was never able to wear an Irish hardball uniform.

"Football is my second sport. Baseball is my first love," said Duerson, who was such an outstanding pitcher in high school that he was heavily scouted by the Los Angeles Dodgers, who would likely have drafted Duerson had he not decided to enroll at Notre Dame.

How good was Duerson? Well, if the company he kept is any comparison, consider this: at a national all-star baseball camp in Michigan during his junior year in high school, Duerson joined some of the best prep baseball stars in the country, including such future big leaguers as Don Mattingly and Darryl Strawberry.

One has to wonder where Duerson, who considers himself a big Cub fan (he's close friends with Cub pitcher Mitch "Wild Thing"

Williams), might be today had he forsaken football for baseball.

Considering the excellent shape Duerson is in today, including the massive arm muscles he has, he was asked if might consider doing a "Bo Jackson," play both baseball and football, especially if a team like the Cubs approached him today to join its pitching staff.

"Never. I'll be through with sports shortly. I'll watch my kids play," he said smiling.

But seriously, just as important as success at his position on the Bears is to Duerson, so is his self-imposed responsibility to youngsters today as a role model, unlike other athletes who feel they have no obligation to the youth of today.

"That bothers me," said Duerson. "Those are individuals who haven't matured to the point that they're able to realize or recognize what responsibility is."

"We have a big responsibility. It's not just a Dave Duerson, a Dan Hampton or a Mike Singletary. Athletes are put on a pedestal. As far as America is concerned, to be an athlete is the greatest thing in the world. Every kid, at some point in time, has that dream. So if I can make a difference in some kid's mind, then I want to be that individual."



Dave Duerson feels the need to be a role model for kids today and takes that responsibility seriously by working with them at camps in the off-season. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)





The Bears have done a good job recently of weeding out veterans like Otis Wilson before their performances decline and they hold back younger players. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

## Rookies keep Bears at top

Jim McMahon is gone. Otis Wilson is gone. Emery Moorehead, Mike Richardson, Al Harris? Gone. The common refrain from Bears fans is it's not the same team that was so much fun in 1985.

Of course it's not. That was four seasons ago. Four seasons is practically a generation in the NFL.

But it's a lot closer to the same team than most Super Bowl champions are after four seasons.

### KEVIN LAMB



The Bears' starting lineup still has 13 of their 1985 championship team's starting 24, counting kickers and punters, four seasons later. The Washington Redskins' starting lineup still has 13 of their 1987 championship team's starting 24 two seasons later. The New York Giants have only nine holdovers from their starting 24 of three years ago.

You don't want to count kickers? Fair enough. The Bears have 11 of their starting 22 still in the lineup. Only one of the previous five champions of the '80s had more than that on opening day four seasons later. The Giants have just seven holdovers three seasons later, and the Redskins 13 holdovers just 18 months later.

One year ago, only five of the 49ers' 1984 championship starters were still in the lineup. The 1983 Raiders had nine holdover starters on opening day four years later. The 1980 Raiders and 1982 Redskins had 11. The 1981 49ers had 14. The Bears have had

a little less turnover than average, and a lot less than the champions that followed them.

The Bears don't have their quarterback; four of the other seven teams did (including the two teams that won Super Bowls two or three seasons ago). They don't have either starting running back still in the lineup; five of the 12 starters (Washington had only one back each year) have been holdovers.

### Starting line still intact

On the other hand, the Bears have all five offensive linemen still starting; the average there is two. They have three defensive linemen still starting; the average there four years later is a little more than one.

It should be noted that the 1981 49ers probably should not have had 14 holdovers in 1985. That 1985 team was the second-worst 49er team of the '80s, losing in the wild-card game. It probably kept veterans it shouldn't have kept, but it was hard to cut them loose after winning the Super Bowl the year before.

Are the Bears in danger of making that mistake? Not hardly. As long as Mike Ditka is their coach, they'll cut more veteran players a year too early than a year too late.

Only Denver and Pittsburgh kept more rookies, 10 apiece. Seven teams kept at least eight rookies. The other six missed the playoffs last year.

Seven positions have changed starters since a year ago. Fans adored some of the departed starters and at least felt like they knew the others, distant friends all. The two rookies and four second-year men who replaced them are still newcomers.

At each of those seven positions, a younger player replaced an older one. Dante Jones replaced right linebacker Jim Morrissey, who had replaced Wilson. Wendell Davis replaced split end Dennis Gentry. Brad Muster replaced fullback Matt Suhey. Jim Thornton replaced Moorehead at tight end. Donnell Woolford replaced Richardson at left corner. Trace Armstrong replaced Harris at



The Bears hope defensive end Tony Woods, a rookie drafted in the eighth round, can turn out like another defensive end they drafted in the eighth round — Richard Dent. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

defensive left end. Mike Tomczak replaced McMahon at quarterback.

It has to be that way. If the cast doesn't change, the standings will.

"A lot of times it doesn't seem right," Dan Hampton said. "Back in '83, I wasn't impressed with Richard Dent. Look at him now. Ditka knows talent."

### Woods biggest surprise

Dent was an eighth-round defensive lineman. He had potential. This year, the biggest surprise on the Bears' cutdown day was their keeping Tony Woods, an eighth-round defensive lineman. Ditka said he had potential.

"I can get a lot stronger and faster and read things better," Woods said. He has seen what experience did for Dent. He has seen Dent make pass rushing look easy. "He's so deceiving. He gets around the end, and it's, 'How did he do it?'" The Bears are betting Woods is the man who can find out.

Maybe he's not. If he's not, they'll make another change next year or the year after.

The Bears used 18 of their 47 roster spots for players in their first two seasons, "probably more than most," personnel director Bill Tobin said after the final cuts last week.

But they also kept 22 who were on the team four years ago, when they won the Super Bowl, and six from eight years ago. That's also more than most.

he keeps four or five future starters every year, he'll never have to rebuild. To do that, he has to keep eight or nine rookies.

And if he has those future starters at the bottom of the roster, he won't have to keep using players who should be former starters.

The veterans raise the rookies' standards. They made it a hard team for young players to make. "They've got experience on you, and they do things right," said Woods. "I was thinking to make this team, you've got

to be really exceptional."

### Rookies also help veterans

That's how it is on the best teams. What Woods didn't know, though, is that the best teams also need enough good young players to make it easy for older players to be expendable. The rookies raise the veterans' standards, too.

When Woods saw the Bears, he saw names he'd been reading on Pro Bowl rosters since he was in high school. He saw defensive linemen play at a level he'd never imagined. He didn't see the age and operations that make two or three of them closer to the ends of their careers than the beginnings.

Woods didn't sleep well Sunday night. "Not at all," he said. He thought about going back to school, getting his master's. He was a realist. He thought he had done well in training camp, but the Bears had eight defensive linemen. They would keep only seven. What were his chances?

He carried his playbook to Halas Hall Monday, ready to turn it in and get on with life. His defensive line coach, John Levra, was in the entry hall when he went through the door. "I know I had a blank expression on my face," he said. "I had a big lump in my throat. I was nervous and a little scared."

When Levra spoke to him, it might as well have been in Latin.

"We're going to keep you, so get your butt in gear," Levra said. Woods just stared back. Then he grabbed Levra's arm and pulled him closer.

"I heard him, but I didn't hear him," Woods said. "I wanted to hear it again to make sure. I said, 'Excuse me. What did you say?' He said it again, and I went down (to the locker room) and did a backflip."

He has a job. Now, like all the other Bears, he'll have to keep it.





# BEAR REPORT

## CHICAGO BEARS



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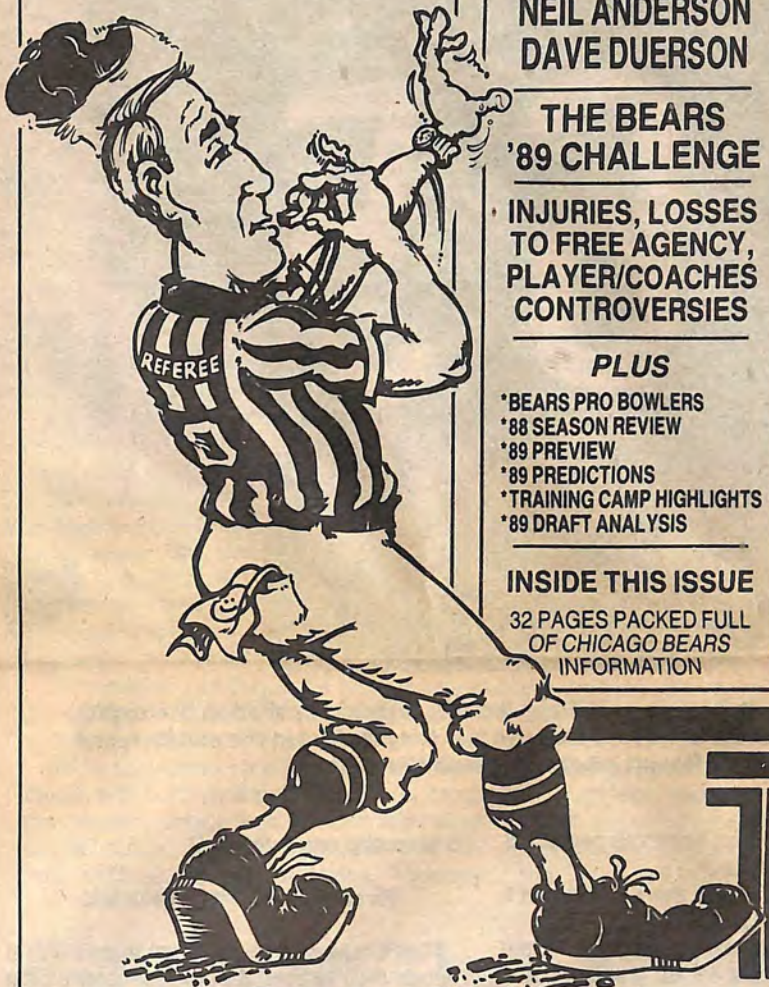
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# NFL Notebook

## Crowd noise won't bother Bears

The new rule against crowd noise can only help the Bears. They have long complained about their quiet fans in Soldier Field, where the openness of the stadium with fewer than 20,000 seats between the goal lines makes it almost impossible to get truly unruly.

When the Vikings visit Sunday, for example, it is unlikely that the decibels would cost the Bears their timeouts and any five-yard penalties.

**DON PIERSON**



However, when the Bears go to Minnesota's Metrodome on Dec. 3, they could benefit from vociferous Viking fans who disrupt the Bear signal calling.

Two domed teams, the New Orleans Saints and Seattle Seahawks, were penalized during preseason games for crowd noise. The disturbing thing about the New Orleans incident was there were only 51,000 fans, two-thirds capacity, in the Superdome.

Washington coach Joe Gibbs called for an immediate repeal of the rule, unlikely because it would require a unanimous vote by owners who passed it by a three-fourths majority in March.

Gibbs took note of Cincinnati quarterback Boomer Esiason mischievously inciting the crowd on the sidelines, then hiding behind teammate Brian Blados and smiling while officials got coach Sam Wyche to warn him.

"It's really a step back, a joke, a travesty. It's gone bonkers. We've got a quarterback hiding on the sidelines. It's like pro wrestling," Gibbs said.

The Saints' crowd proved that loyalty to the home team takes a far bleacher seat to the fan's desire to express himself.

"It's the first time I can yell at the fans for giving up a touchdown," Saints' defensive back Dave Waymer said. "They've been yelling all these years. I hope they learn a lesson."

It was early in training camp that Wyche had warned: "That rule will be fun to watch. Is an official going to turn around to the crowd and say, 'OK, that's enough. Put that \$20 ticket back in your pocket and be quiet so we can keep this game going?' You can't legislate fans. They are there to enjoy the game and spontaneous reaction is just going to happen."

Houston coach Jerry Glanville, whose Oilers could be hurt by a noisy Astrodome, advocated decibel meters for the officials.

"They need a meter to determine what's loud and what's not," Glanville said. "Referees are all different. The guy (Gene Barth) working the New Orleans game talks very soft and low, so everything is loud to him. But if you get Red Cashion, you have to scream in his ear. Even then, he still can't hear you."

With electronic ears added to electronic eyes, are robot officials next?

•**THE PACKERS WILL WEAR WHITE** jerseys instead of green at home against Tampa Bay and New Orleans for the first time since 1952.

"Just in case it's a real hot day," said coach Lindy Infante, who has been trying to change exaggerated notions of Green Bay's cold weather.

Reminded that Vinny Testaverde, Tampa's opening day opposing quarterback, is color blind, Infante said: "Oh good, that will help then. If it does help to confuse him, fine."

•**BUDDY RYAN SURPRISED SOME** of his Philadelphia Eagles players by allowing Randall Cunningham, Keith Jackson, Keith Byars, and Todd Bell to leave an exhibition game against Atlanta two weeks ago at half-time to attend a birthday party for Whitney Houston.

"It's like your kids," Ryan explained. "If you get an invitation and have to bale hay, you can't go. If you don't have to bale hay, you can go."

Besides, Ryan said, Whitney Houston is the girl who sang that song, "One Moment In Time."

"Great song," Ryan said.

More Ryan, on his relationship to players:

"I treat them fair. I treat them just like my own kids. The trust is there. I don't think a lot of NFL coaches can say that. They're two-faced. They lie and I don't do that. I'm not smart enough to lie."

•**INFLATION, NFL STYLE.** Three Eagles, Reggie White, Randall Cunningham, and Mike Quick, are making \$3.94 million among them this year.

In the long ago year of 1987, the entire starting unit of the Eagles made a total of \$2.6 million.

•**THE STEROIDS NET WAS** a welcome sight for at least one NFL player. Cleveland Browns' rookie Andrew Stewart felt vindicated when his name wasn't on the banned list.

"I couldn't wait for this day to come," Stewart said. "My agent said about 10 teams called him and asked why I wasn't on that list. Teams were waiting to say, 'I told you so. That's why we didn't draft him.'"

•**SPENCER TILLMAN, A PLAN B** player let go by the Houston Oilers and signed by the San Francisco 49ers, drew an interesting comparison between the atmosphere in Houston and the one among the world champions:

"You can be an unchained idiot and play at Houston; here it's a cerebral approach."

•**WHY THERE ARE SO FEW** guaranteed contracts in football: Neil Lomax will be paid \$1.3 million this year, \$1.4 million in 1990 and \$1.5 million in 1991 even though his arthritic hip is expected to prevent the quarterback from ever playing again for the Phoenix Cardinals.

Said Lomax's dad, David: "We didn't want it to get so he couldn't play golf again or couldn't play with his children."

He will be able to buy a golf course.



The Packers will wear white jerseys at home against the Buccaneers this season — perhaps because Tampa Bay quarterback Vinny Testaverde is color blind?

•**THE JIM MCMAHON TRADE** helped the San Diego Chargers rebound from the bad publicity of their Jim Lachey trade of a year ago when they gave up the all-pro tackle to the Los Angeles Raiders for John Clay and Napoleon McCallum. Neither Clay nor McCallum made this year's team while the Raiders traded Lachey to Washington for quarterback Jay Schroeder. If McMahon turns out better than Schroeder, fans will forget the draft choice the Chargers will lose to the Bears.

## Preview

Continued From Page 10

The team that runs should win. If Anderson's effective, it will keep Tomczak out of third-and-long passing situations, thereby slowing Minnesota's rush.

### EXTRA POINTS

**LAST MEETING:** On Sept. 18, at Chicago, Vikings 31, Bears 7. QB Tommy Kramer threw three touchdown passes, including two to Anthony Carter, and Minnesota's defense held the Bears to 70 yards rushing and forced five turnovers.

On Dec. 19, at Minnesota, Vikings 28, Bears 27. With the division already settled, the Vikings took a commanding

21-3 halftime lead and withstood a furious Chicago rally. Minnesota iced the game when LB Walker Lee Ashley returned an interception 94 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

**CHICAGO INJURIES:** WR Glen Kozlowski (knee), LB Troy Johnson (shoulder).

**MINNESOTA INJURIES:** G Randy Rasmussen (back).

**STAT FACTS:** Minnesota's sweep last season was its first in the series since 1980. . . . The Vikings' 31 points last year were their most against the Bears since 1982. . . . The rivalry has featured a rout every year since 1984, with victory margins by the Bears of 31 (1984), 18 (1985), 23 (1986) and 20 (1987). . . . Minnesota's last shutout in the series was 17-0 in 1974. . . . The Bears' last shutout was 23-0 in 1986.

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# Viewpoint

Mail Letters To: 1271 W. Dundee Rd., Box 89E, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

## Pastorini is no McMahon

To the editor,

In reference to the Viewpoint letter from Houston that appeared in the Sept. 4 issue: Sir, do not compare Dan Pastorini with Jim McMahon ever again.

Good luck in San Diego, Mac, and go Bears.

Morris Maag  
Worland, WY

## Bears can't lose key players

To the editor,

What's happening to the Bears?

We're losing our key players — Wilber Marshall, Otis Wilson, Mike Richardson, now Jim McMahon. I think we need to stop losing players of this quality and figure out why these people are leaving.

Is it Mike Ditka, money or the personnel director or what? Don't get me wrong. I've been a Bears fan forever. My hometown is Rockford. I think we should keep our people no matter what — money, conflict or whatever. Let's forget the commercials and get back to hard-hitting football. Let's remember 1985 and 1986. We can do it again.

Mike McCain  
Buford, GA

## Stop putting down McMahon

To the editor,

I received my first copy of *Bear Report* Aug. 14. I enjoy reading the ones I get. But in every one I receive the writers are always putting Jim McMahon down, mostly Kevin Lamb. Some people may not like Jim McMahon. But I am a big Jim McMahon fan and so are a lot of other people.

Jim McMahon fans don't want to hear

what the writers' opinions of Jim McMahon are because they are always putting him down. Jim McMahon played on the Bears for a long time and did his best every time he played. He left a lot of great memories for the Bears, Bear fans and a lot of other people, too.

The least *Bear Report* writers could do is write better and nicer things about Jim McMahon and give him more respect because he really deserves it. Just from reading his book it seems he is not only a good quarterback but a good role model for young fans like me.

I would like to say good luck to Jim McMahon with the Chargers. I'll be pulling for Jim McMahon with the Chargers all the way, just like I did with the Bears. I hope I am one of Jim McMahon's biggest fans. And I think he will bring a lot of memories to the Chargers as he did with the Bears.

Kristy Hoffman  
Marrero, LA

## Stop laying blame for trade

To the editor,

I have been a Bear fan since 1936 and think it is time the media and others quit blaming anyone for McMahon being traded. There have been many really good Bear players traded at the right time, including 89, Mike Ditka.

Papa Bear Halas started the Bears and instigated the NFL and knew Mike Ditka was a man like him who played his best every game and wanted to win above all else.

One of the last things Mr. Halas did was hire Mike as coach of his beloved Bears. Let's play football and add this year's Super Bowl to Super Bowl XX.

Emelyn Mast  
Elkhart, IN

## Trade was excellent decision

To the editor,

Jim McMahon has been overrated as a quarterback. He is by no means among the top quarterbacks in the NFL. Lately his performance was less than satisfactory and his egotistical personality became a disruptive factor on the team. The casual Bears' fan created a McMahon image that does not exist. The real Jim McMahon is a dull, immature, unreliable and rude individual who at best is mediocre in his profession.

The Bear organization deserves to be congratulated for the excellent decision to trade McMahon while he is healthy and can, at the very least, bring a third-round choice in the 1990 draft.

E.F. Hasty  
Glenview, IL

ment his trade rumors were varified. If you wouldn't criticize him while he was a Bear, don't bother now.

3. McMahon's sports star must have been the single most phony one in local sports history. No other local athlete had achieved so little, yet been rewarded so much. Now that the Bears as a collective body of professionals have finally shed the old skin of his adolescent image, maybe the real football players on the team, the Hamptons, McMichaels, Singletarys, Hilgenbergs, Bortzes and Thayers, can refocus on what they do best — playing football — and get their team back where it belongs — the Super Bowl. If it wasn't for McMahon's oppressive and undependable self these past three years, they probably would have gotten back there sooner. So it's "So long, Jim," and "Good luck, Bears."

Patti Szymarek  
Waukegan, IL

## Good riddance, McMahon

To the editor,

Three points regarding the recently departed Jim McMahon:

1. More "good riddance" than "fare thee well." A pain in every part of the anatomy you care to name, McMahon's departure was at least one season overdue, and probably more.

2. Over his years in Chicago, I know I've grown tired of his presence, and said so. I know that a mere three of four local sportswriters did as well. Far more dubious, however, are those working stiffs who call themselves "journalists" and who now, all of a sudden, have discovered what a louse McMahon was. So, to whom it may apply, I say the time for putting up passed the mo-



Jim McMahon

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# 1989 NFL Schedule

## WEEK 1

### Sunday, Sept. 10

Tampa Bay 23, Green Bay 21  
Chicago 17, Cincinnati 14  
New Orleans 28, Dallas 0  
L.A. Rams 31, Atlanta 21  
Phoenix 16, Detroit 13  
San Francisco 30, Indianapolis 24  
Cleveland 51, Pittsburgh 0  
New England 27, N.Y. Jets 24  
Minnesota 38, Houston 7  
Buffalo 27, Miami 24  
Philadelphia 31, Seattle 7  
Denver 34, Kansas City 20  
L.A. Raiders 40, San Diego 14

### Monday, Sept. 11

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8 p.m.

## Week 2

### Sunday, Sept. 17

Dallas at Atlanta, noon  
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City, noon  
Miami at New England, noon  
New Orleans at Green Bay, noon  
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland, noon  
Philadelphia at Washington, noon  
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon  
San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 3 p.m.  
Detroit at N.Y. Giants, 3 p.m.  
Minnesota at Bears, 3 p.m.  
Phoenix at Seattle, 3 p.m.  
Houston at San Diego, 3 p.m.  
Indianapolis at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Sept. 18

Denver at Buffalo, 8 p.m.

## Week 3

### Sunday, Sept. 24

Atlanta at Indianapolis, noon  
Buffalo at Houston, noon  
Bears at Detroit, noon  
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, noon  
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, noon  
Phoenix at N.Y. Giants, noon  
San Francisco at Philadelphia, noon  
Seattle at New England, noon  
Washington at Dallas, noon  
Green Bay at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.  
Kansas City at San Diego, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 3 p.m.  
L.A. Raiders at Denver, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Sept. 25

Cleveland at Cincinnati, 8 p.m.

## Week 4

### Sunday, Oct. 1

Atlanta vs. Green Bay at Milw., noon  
Cincinnati at Kansas City, noon  
Denver at Cleveland, noon  
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, noon  
Miami at Houston, noon  
New England at Buffalo, noon  
Washington at New Orleans, noon  
Pittsburgh at Detroit, noon  
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, noon  
San Diego at Phoenix, 3 p.m.  
Seattle at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 3 p.m.  
L.A. Rams at San Francisco, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Oct. 2

Philadelphia at Bears, 8 p.m.

## Week 5

### Sunday, Oct. 8

Buffalo at Indianapolis, noon  
Bears at Tampa Bay, noon  
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, noon  
Cleveland at Miami, noon  
Dallas at Green Bay, noon  
Detroit at Minnesota, noon  
Houston at New England, noon  
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, noon  
Phoenix at Washington, 3 p.m.  
San Diego at Denver, 3 p.m.  
Kansas City at Seattle, 3 p.m.  
New Orleans at San Francisco, 3 p.m.  
Atlanta at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Oct. 9

L.A. Raiders at N.Y. Jets, 8 p.m.

## Week 6

### Sunday, Oct. 15

Detroit at Tampa Bay, noon  
Green Bay at Minnesota, noon  
Houston at Bears, noon  
Miami at Cincinnati, noon  
New England at Atlanta, noon  
Washington at N.Y. Giants, noon  
San Francisco at Dallas, noon  
Seattle at San Diego, 3 p.m.  
Indianapolis at Denver, 3 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at New Orleans, 3 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 3 p.m.  
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Oct. 16

L.A. Rams at Buffalo, 8 p.m.

## Week 7

### Sunday, Oct. 22

Dallas at Kansas City, noon  
Green Bay at Miami, noon  
Indianapolis at Cincinnati, noon  
L.A. Raiders at Philadelphia, noon  
Minnesota at Detroit, noon  
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, noon  
Pittsburgh at Houston, noon  
Tampa Bay at Washington, noon  
New England at San Francisco, 3 p.m.  
Atlanta at Phoenix, 3 p.m.  
Denver at Seattle, 3 p.m.  
New Orleans at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at San Diego, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Oct. 23

Bears at Cleveland, 8 p.m.

## Week 8

### Sunday, Oct. 29

Atlanta at New Orleans, noon  
Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milw., noon  
Houston at Cleveland, noon  
Kansas City at Pittsburgh, noon  
L.A. Rams at Bears, noon  
Miami at Buffalo, noon  
New England at Indianapolis, noon  
Phoenix at Dallas, noon  
Tampa Bay at Cincinnati, noon  
San Francisco at N.Y. Jets, 3 p.m.  
Washington at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Denver, 3 p.m.  
San Diego at Seattle, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Oct. 30

Minnesota at N.Y. Giants, 8 p.m.

## Week 9

### Sunday, Nov. 5

Buffalo at Atlanta, noon  
Bears at Green Bay, noon  
Cleveland at Tampa Bay, noon  
Detroit at Houston, noon  
Indianapolis at Miami, noon  
L.A. Rams at Minnesota, noon  
N.Y. Jets at New England, noon  
Seattle at Kansas City, noon  
Cincinnati at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at Phoenix, 3 p.m.  
Philadelphia at San Diego, 3 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Denver, 3 p.m.  
Dallas at Washington, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Nov. 6

San Francisco at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

## Week 10

### Sunday, Nov. 12

Bears at Pittsburgh, noon  
Denver at Kansas City, noon  
Green Bay at Detroit, noon  
Indianapolis at Buffalo, noon  
Miami at N.Y. Jets, noon  
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, noon  
New Orleans at New England, noon  
Washington at Philadelphia, noon  
Atlanta at San Francisco, 3 p.m.  
Cleveland at Seattle, 3 p.m.  
Dallas at Phoenix, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.  
L.A. Raiders at San Diego, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Nov. 13

Cincinnati at Houston, 8 p.m.

## Week 11

### Sunday, Nov. 19

Buffalo at New England, noon  
Detroit at Cincinnati, noon  
Kansas City at Cleveland, noon  
Miami at Dallas, noon  
Minnesota at Philadelphia, noon  
New Orleans at Atlanta, noon  
San Diego at Pittsburgh, noon  
Tampa Bay at Bears, noon  
Phoenix at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.  
L.A. Raiders at Houston, 3 p.m.  
Seattle at N.Y. Giants, 3 p.m.  
Green Bay at San Francisco, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Nov. 20

Denver at Washington, 8 p.m.

## Week 12

### Thursday, Nov. 23

Cleveland at Detroit, 11:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Dallas, 3 p.m.  
**Sunday, Nov. 26**  
Atlanta at N.Y. Jets, noon  
Cincinnati at Buffalo, noon  
Houston at Kansas City, noon  
Minnesota vs. Green Bay at Milw., noon  
Pittsburgh at Miami, noon  
San Diego at Indianapolis, noon  
Seattle at Denver, 3 p.m.  
New England at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Phoenix, 3 p.m.  
Bears at Washington, 3 p.m.  
L.A. Rams at New Orleans, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Nov. 27

N.Y. Giants at San Francisco, 8 p.m.

## Week 13

### Sunday, Dec. 3

Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon  
Green Bay at Tampa Bay, noon  
Houston at Pittsburgh, noon  
Indianapolis at New England, noon  
L.A. Rams at Dallas, noon  
Miami at Kansas City, noon  
New Orleans at Detroit, noon  
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, noon  
San Francisco at Atlanta, noon  
Washington at Phoenix, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at San Diego, 3 p.m.  
Denver at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.  
Bears at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 4

Buffalo at Seattle, 8 p.m.

## Week 14

### Sunday, Dec. 10

Atlanta at Minnesota, noon  
Dallas at Philadelphia, noon  
Detroit at Bears, noon  
Kansas City at Green Bay, noon  
New Orleans at Buffalo, noon  
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets, noon  
San Diego at Washington, noon  
Seattle at Cincinnati, noon  
Tampa Bay at Houston, noon  
Cleveland at Indianapolis, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at Denver, 3 p.m.  
Phoenix at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.  
New England at Miami, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 11

San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 8 p.m.

## Week 15

### Saturday, Dec. 16

Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 11:30 a.m.  
Denver at Phoenix, 3 p.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 17

Green Bay at Bears, noon  
Houston at Cincinnati, noon  
Miami at Indianapolis, noon  
Minnesota at Cleveland, noon  
New England at Pittsburgh, noon  
San Diego at Kansas City, noon  
Tampa Bay at Detroit, noon  
Washington at Atlanta, 3 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.  
Buffalo at San Francisco, 3 p.m.  
L.A. Raiders at Seattle, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 18

Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

## Week 16

### Saturday, Dec. 23

Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, 11:30 a.m.  
Washington at Seattle, 3 p.m.  
Cleveland at Houston, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 24

Detroit at Atlanta, noon  
Green Bay at Dallas, noon  
Indianapolis at New Orleans, noon  
Kansas City at Miami, noon  
L.A. Raiders at N.Y. Giants, noon  
L.A. Rams at New England, noon  
Phoenix at Philadelphia, noon  
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, noon  
Bears at San Francisco, 3 p.m.  
Denver at San Diego, 3 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 25

Cincinnati at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

## NFL Standings

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	East					
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	31	7
Phoenix	1	0	0	1.000	16	13
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	0	28
Central						
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	17	14
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	38	7
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	23	21
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	13	16
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	21	23
West						
L.A. Rams	1	0	0	1.000	31	21
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	28	0
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	30	24
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	21	31

### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East					
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New England	1	0	0	1.000	27	24
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	27	24
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	30
Miami	0	1	0	.000	24	27
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	.000	24	27
Central						
Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000	51	0
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	14	17
Houston	0	1	0	.000	7	38
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	0	51
West						
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	34	20
L.A. Raiders	1	0	0	1.000	40	14
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	20	34
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	14	40
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	7	31



# Early signings help Bears

If training camps and practice time mean anything, the Bears should beat the Vikings at Soldier Field on Sunday.

After all, while the Vikings were trying to lure all their players back to training camp, the Bears had all hands in Lake Forest preparing for the season. Players like Joey Browner, Anthony Carter and Steve Jordan chose not to partake of Mankato, Minn. this summer.

isn't the answer. A year ago at this time, Phillips was talking about getting an early start on a new contract for Pro Bowl safety Dave Duerson. As we all know, Duerson's negotiations turned nasty and he wound up a holdout.

The Bears want to pay players based on their contribution to the team and less on what players of similar caliber on other teams make. Nothing wrong with that. But

it's a policy that must be consistently maintained if it's to be sold to players.

"The biggest thing remains our salary structure," Phillips said. "Given our system, there isn't a free market. But we are realistic and becoming more realistic with players whose contracts are coming up."

Hence, Phillips' belief in being "pro-active." Come next offseason, he'll have a lot to be pro-active about. Also unsigned will

be Jimbo Covert, Dan Hampton and Mike Tomczak.

"With veterans, we've tried to reward those who've played at a high level," Phillips said. "I think by taking that approach, we've been able to come to terms fairly quickly."

"I think some of our fringe players may feel underpaid, but they understand when they produce, they'll be rewarded."

## TERRY BANNON



The Bears, often criticized in the past, had everyone in camp by Aug. 19, when first-round draft choice Trace Armstrong signed.

Whether the Bears win Sunday will not prove anything by itself. But if they do have a big season, and maybe even make the Super Bowl, the fact that finance director Ted Phillips had everyone signed early may go down as one of the reasons.

"It's all part of forming a team," Bears president Mike McCaskey said. "It could help us win some games early on."

Early signings are not necessarily a harbinger of success any more than holdouts presage disaster. Mike Singletary held out of training camp in 1985. Al Harris and Todd Bell never showed up at all and the Bears won the Super Bowl without them.

In 1984, the Bears had everyone signed early and made the great leap forward from 8-8 to 10-6 and the NFC title game.

Even though having everyone in camp is no guarantee of a playoff berth, which situation would you rather bet on?

The Bears' success this season was only comparative. Armstrong was the 14th first-round pick to sign in a year marred by holdouts.

Whether the Bears will be in such good shape in the future remains to be seen. But Phillips says he'd like to get an early start on next season's unsigned, particularly Richard Dent and Neal Anderson.

With pass-rushers having become almost as valuable as quarterbacks, Dent will be in a position to more than double his salary of \$700,000. The Bears are more likely to accept two first-round draft choices as compensation than pay Dent that much.

That's the position the Bears found themselves in during the spring of 1987. That's when the Redskins ambushed the Bears with the \$1.2 million offer to Wilber Marshall. The Bears accepted the two No. 1s as compensation.

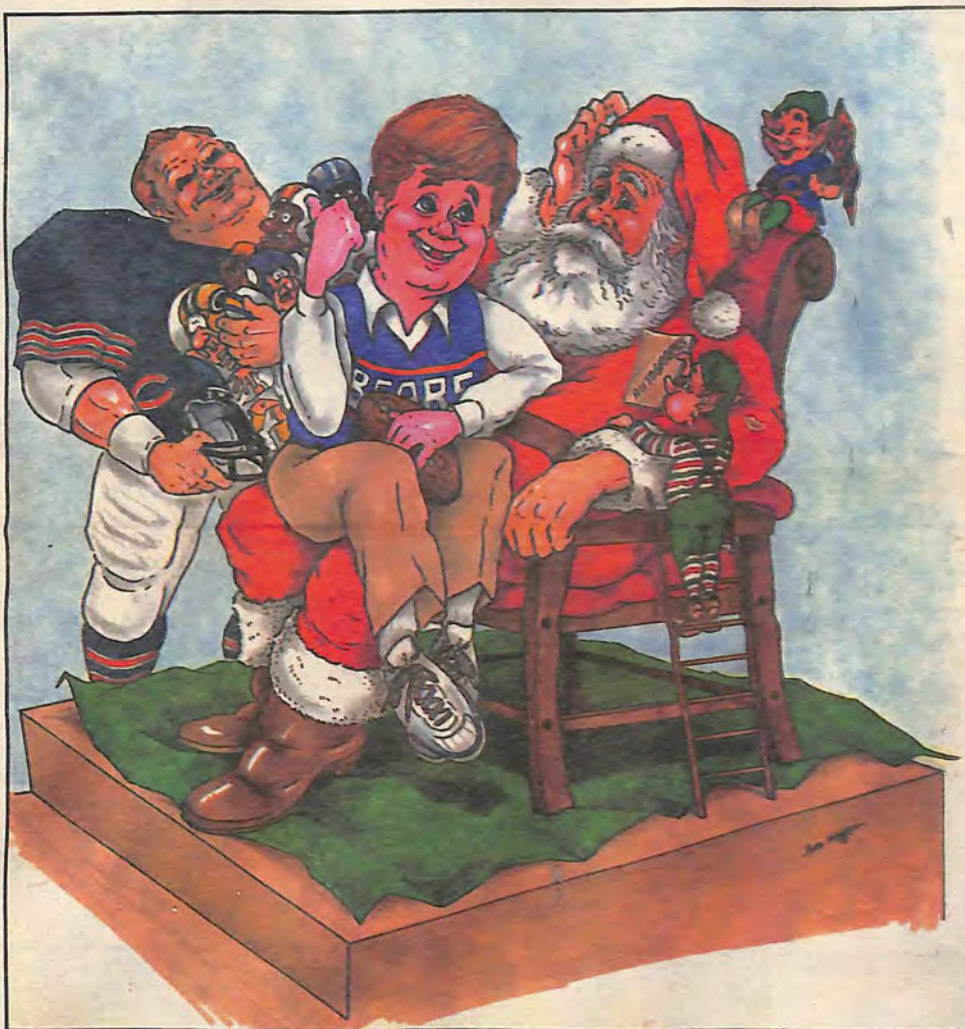
"We want to be pro-active and get players signed rather than be reactive like we were in the Wilber Marshall situation," Phillips said. "With players who deserve the high dollars, we want to make a serious effort to sign them before we're facing a Feb. 1 deadline where we have to worry about what another club might do."

Other clubs have shown their willingness to raid the Bears. We know about the Redskins. And the Raiders traded for Willie Gault after the Bears failed to re-sign him last year.

It may be meaningless, but Raiders managing partner Al Davis said hello to Dent on the field before the Bears-Raiders exhibition game in Los Angeles.

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